

U.S. says 'spydust' was harmless

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. scientists have determined that chemicals known as "spydust" that Washington charged were used by Moscow to track American staff in the Soviet Union were harmless, the U.S. embassy said Friday. Announcing the results of tests on samples collected in Moscow and Leningrad last year, Ambassador Arthur Hartman said it was still unacceptable that any substance should be used against U.S. diplomats and other personnel. The U.S. government complained last August that Soviet security police were sprinkling "spydust," nitro phenyl pentadecane (NPPD), on door handles and car steering wheels of U.S. employees so they could trace their movements. Moscow angrily denied the charges, saying they were an attempt to poison the atmosphere between the superpowers.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

UNICEF: Aid cuts endanger children

BRUSSELS (R) — More than 10,000 children a day died in Africa last year, victims of cuts in Third World aid and development caused by economic recession in the 1980s, the head of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Friday. "For the first time in 40 years the pattern of progress for children all over the world is beginning to slow and drift backwards," UNICEF Director James Grant told reporters. He said governments put too much emphasis on cutting health and social programmes in times of economic austerity. In Ghana, falling export prices and bad harvests caused an 80 per cent cut in health spending in the past five years and a rise in infant mortality of almost a quarter, Mr. Grant said. In India, about 3,000 infants died daily in 1985 — more than the number of people killed by the escape of poisonous gas from a chemical plant in Bhopal in December 1984, he said.

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U.S.-Soviet flights to resume in April

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Acting Secretary of State John Whitehead and Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet ambassador in Washington, exchanged diplomatic notes on Thursday amending the 1966 air transport agreement between the United States and the USSR, and opening the way for resumption of direct air service between the two countries. Under terms of the amended agreement, direct air service will be inaugurated between the two countries on April 29. Cities served will be Moscow and Leningrad in the Soviet Union and Washington and New York in the United States, he said. Aeroflot and Pan American are the airlines designated by the respective countries to provide the renewed air service.

Israeli inflation falls for 1st time in 9 years

TEL AVIV (R) — Consumer prices in Israel, where inflation reached 450 per cent in 1984, fell last month for the first time since January 1977, the statistics office said Friday. A spokesman for the central bureau of statistics said the prices declined by 1.3 per cent in January because of a drop in housing costs and lower prices for clothing as the end of winter approached. He told reporters the January figure, the lowest since 1977, reflected the government's six-month government austerity programme but did not mean the economy was out of trouble.

Pakistani Christians stage protest

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — Pakistani police on Friday banned a protest and issued tear gas at a large crowd of Christians protesting against the sacking of a Roman Catholic church by Muslims south of here. At least a dozen people, including a Catholic priest and a photographer, were injured when police charged the crowd outside the residence of the governor of Punjab province, eyewitnesses said. The demonstrators, estimated at over 1,000, were protesting against a Feb. 3 attack in Rahimyar Khan in southern Punjab in which nine people were injured. Church windows were smashed, an altar set afire and the church Bible stolen. Between 2,000 and 3,000 Muslim students staged the hour-long attack in protest against desecration of Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

Moi asks Museveni to let Okello return

NAIROBI (R) — Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi on Friday urged Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni to allow ousted head of state General Tito Okello to return home from southern Sudan where he fled after being overthrown last month. Nairobian Radio quoted Mr. Moi as saying Gen. Okello was "misled by his colleagues during his administration and he should therefore be allowed to return as he was an old man of 70." Mr. Moi chaired abortive peace talks between Gen. Okello and Mr. Museveni last year. The two sides signed a peace agreement in December, but it did nothing to stop the fighting and Mr. Museveni's National Resistance Army (NRA) overthrew Gen. Okello's military government three weeks ago.

Iraq reports Iranian ouster from Majnoon, 25,000 enemy casualties

Baghdad says noose tightening around Iranians in Shatt Al Arab

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID on Friday its forces evicted Iranian troops occupying Iraq's southern Majnoon oilfield north of Basra and reported that the total Iranian casualties exceeded 25,000 dead and wounded since Iran launched its new offensive across the Shatt-Al-Arab waterway five days ago.

Rival communiques by the warring sides continued to make conflicting claims of battlefield successes as heavy fighting raged on. The report of 25,000 Iranians killed or wounded was the first casualty report made by Iraq in several days.

The latest Iraqi military communiques said a "lightning attack" totally annihilated Iranian troops that had been occupying the southern Majnoon oilfield north of Basra.

The communique added that south of Basra troops of Iraq's Seventh Corps continued to tighten their ring around Iranian forces that had crossed to the western Iraqi side of the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

Iraqi troops continued to battle Iranians in the far southeastern waterway, where Iran claimed it had seized the disused Iraqi port of Fao at the start of the five-day offensive.

The Third Corps commander, Major-General Maher Abed Al Rashid, told Baghdad Radio the Iranians launched seven counterattacks on the Majnoon Islands, but "all enemy attacks were foiled and they failed to recapture one inch of territory."

Some 200 kilometres to the southeast, Iraq said its troops were mounting destructive blows on Iranian troops who had crossed Shatt Al Arab.

Iraqi communiques have not mentioned the word "Fao," but it was apparent Baghdad was referring to the Iranians concentrated on the Fao peninsula. Iraq said it began on Thursday to try to surround the Iranians in the area to force them to give up.

The assistant Iraqi chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Hisham Sabah Al Fakhr, said: "The enemy has no other choice now but to surrender, die or drown in the salty waters."

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iranian attempts to send reinforcements across the 500-metre wide waterway were crushed. Iraq also challenged Iran's claim to have blocked its access to the sea. It said its navy had sunk an Iranian command vessel and two

missile-launching boats overnight in Iran's Khawr Musa channel and somewhat further down the Gulf.

The commander of the Iraqi navy, Commodore Abed Mohamad Abdullah, said Iraqis killed more than 3,000 Iranians as they attacked two of Iraq's disused oil terminals southeast of Fao.

An Iraqi war communique reported the attack on Thursday, saying seven of nine Iranian boats were wrecked. But Commodore Abdullah said the Iranians had approached with 25 boats carrying 250 to 300 men each, and 12 boats were destroyed with their occupants.

His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday called Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to follow up on the latest developments of the situation at the warfront, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

President Hussein told the King that Iraqi forces have completely foiled the aggressive Iranian plans and drove off all attacking Iranian forces and have inflicted heavy losses on them, Petra said.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei warned the United States on Friday not to interfere in the conflict. Khamenei vowed that until Iran's terms for ending the war, now in its 65th month, are accepted, "our combatants will continue to attack, striking harder and harder until final victory," reported the Iranian news agency.

Turning his attention to the United States, Khamenei declared that "the people of Iran will not accept any kind of warning from any power or superpower."

"The U.S. administration should watch out against issuing warnings to Iran and avoid interfering in a matter which does not concern it," IRNA and Tehran Radio quoted him as saying.

Khamenei was commenting on a statement by a U.S. State Department spokesman on Tuesday. This expressed concern over the possibility of the spread of the conflict to neutral countries and warned that "any such development would be a major threat to U.S. interests."

Khamenei was addressing a congregation of hundreds of thousands attending the weekly Friday open air prayer meeting on the campus of Tehran University, IRNA reported.

An Iranian war communique said meanwhile Iranian troops dug in north of Fao beat back three counter-attacks on Friday, killing 150 Iraqis.

Quoted by Tehran Radio, the communique said some tanks were captured in the action over an artificial salt lake near Fao.

Iranian reports on Friday only mentioned fighting north of Fao on the strategic road to Iraq's second city of Basra, 90 kilometres to the northeast.

Iranian communiques said more than 150 Iraqi troops were killed in the latest fighting. This raised the total claimed Iraqi casualty toll since Sunday to more than 2,500 killed or wounded and 1,923 captured. Iran claimed on Friday to have captured 50 square

(Continued on page 3)

Clergy denounce elections as fraudulent as Marcos takes lead

MANILA (Agencies) — The Catholic bishops conference of the Philippines on Friday denounced last week's elections as fraudulent and called on Filipinos to take up a "non-violent struggle for justice."

Supporters of President Ferdinand Marcos and those of his rival, Corason Aquino, clashed Friday outside the national assembly where election results were being tallied. At least seven people were injured, none seriously.

With 97 per cent of votes in the country's more than 86,000 precincts tabulated by the time the assembly adjourned late Friday night, Mr. Marcos had a total of 10,184,710 votes in his favour, or 53.8 per cent, against 8,731,999 or 46.2 per cent for Mrs. Aquino.

Assembly speaker Nicanor KAGISO, South Africa (R) — Black activist Winnie Mandela said on Friday the release of her imprisoned husband, nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, could take months but she expected him to be freed this year.

Asked by reporters about persistent rumours that her husband was about to go free, Mrs. Mandela, a black leader in her own right, said: "I think it is a matter of months but we will not quit (without his release)."

Leading anti-apartheid activists, including churchman Allan Boesak, came from all over the country to support a campaign aimed at protecting Winnie Mandela, who is banished from her home in Soweto by the government, from harassment.

Mr. Boesak told a gathering of journalists and supporters in this township 40 kilometres west of Johannesburg that the campaign linked the police harassment of Winnie Mandela with other issues. These included the call for the lifting of a partial state of emergency and the release of Nelson Mandela with all other political prisoners, he said.

Pretoria imposed a state of emergency in July last year to curb black protest violence, which has now claimed more than 1,100 lives in the past two years.

In Geneva, South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha said on Friday long-standing conditions must be met to obtain the release of Mr. Mandela or independence for the Pretoria-ruled territory of Namibia.

Mr. Botha told reporters that Mr. Mandela, the 68-year-old leader of the banned African National Congress (ANC), must renounce violence as a means of achieving political objectives or two men held in the Soviet Union and Angola must be set free if he were to be released.

He named Andrei Sakharov, who is in internal exile in Gorky, and South African army Captain Wynand Du Toit, captured on a mission in Angola.

The foreign minister arrived unannounced in Geneva earlier this week.

6 injured in bus blast near Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A bomb exploded on a bus in the predominantly orthodox suburb of Be'er Brak on Friday, wounding six people, police said.

Passengers said the bomb was placed on the floor of a no. 66 bus travelling from Tel Aviv to Petah Tikva, about 10 kilometres east of Tel Aviv.

Five were reported to have suffered light to medium injuries. The sixth was taken away by a private car and his condition was not immediately known.

The bus was on its way from Petah Tikva to Tel Aviv. The morning blast followed the detonation of three explosive charges in various other areas on Thursday, which caused no casualties.

The first explosion was at the main bus station in Afula and the second, outside a courthouse in the port city of Haifa. Police said several Arabs were detained for questioning.

Hours later, a bomb was found on an empty bus just after a run from Jerusalem to the eastern town of Beit She'an. A cleaning worker threw the device into a special concrete-lined hole designated for suspicious objects and a police demolition expert detonated it.

Police were investigating whether Arab passengers had boarded the vehicle along its route through the occupied West Bank.

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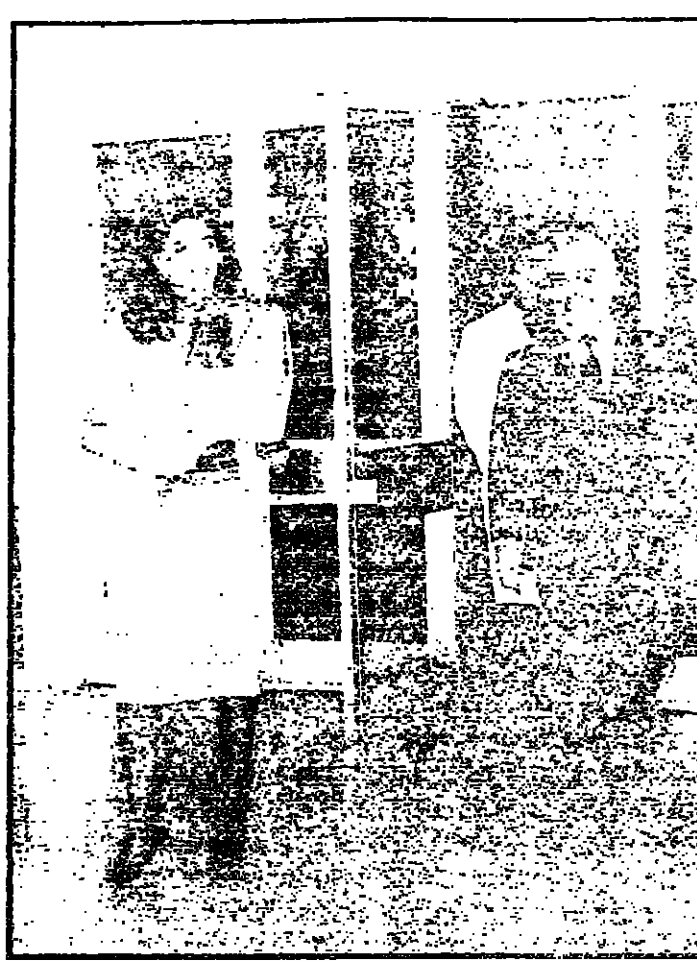


Photo by Zorab

PRINCESS GOES HOME: The Royal Court continued to receive messages of congratulations and goodwill from all over the world on the birth of Her Royal Highness Princess Raiyah, fourth child of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. The Queen and the six-day-old Princess left Al Hussein Medical Centre on Thursday in the company of the King, who drove them to a warm family welcome at home (another photo on page 3)

Arafat: Nothing new in latest U.S. statement

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said on Friday there was nothing new in an American statement issued earlier this week saying the Palestinian problem was more than an issue of refugees.

Mr. Arafat, who arrived here Thursday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak, told the British Broadcasting Corporation in an interview that the U.S. stand that the Palestinian problem was more than that of refugees was affirmed in President Ronald Reagan's Middle East proposal of September 1, 1982.

The PLO chairman was commenting on a statement issued by State Department spokesman Charles Redman on Tuesday. Redman also repeated the U.S. demand that the PLO accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

Mr. Arafat said he would initiate any deal with the organization. Mr. Arafat told reporters at the airport on his arrival here from Baghdad that his talks would cover the Middle East peace process and all problems facing a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problems.

Mr. Mubarak said after Thursday's talks that the new American statement which considered Palestinians to have more rights than mere refugees as mentioned in 242 and 338 was "very encouraging and a good step forward" but needed more study.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters he did not expect dramatic progress, but "things go step by step and we are patient people."

Israel cites efforts to 'improve' W. Bank life

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Responding to U.S. State Department criticism of Israeli policies in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a spokesman for Prime Minister Shimon Peres said that Israel sought to "improve conditions" in the area.

Spokesman Baruch Askarov declined direct comment saying, "we still have to study the document."

But Askarov, speaking to the Associated Press by telephone, added, "we are working to improve the quality of life in the area."

The day before the State Department published its annual human rights report, which criticized Israeli practices such as expulsions of people suspected of resistance activities, and demolishing their homes, Peres outlined to parliament a plan to give Palestinians more "self-rule."

Peres said that Israel sought to appoint more Palestinian mayors and let the area's 1.3 million residents administer health, education and welfare services themselves.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in a speech on Feb. 10 that "anti-terror tactics" did not contradict Israel's desire to meet American demands to "improve the quality of life" in the West Bank.

Rabin also said that the harsh Israeli methods had been effective in reducing the number of attacks on Israelis in recent weeks. About 40 Palestinians have been deported since then and about 100 were jailed without trial, AP quoted sources as saying.

The U.S. State Department report said complaints of violence by Israeli settlers continued throughout the year. Herzog frees 2 Jewish terrorists, page 2

Information minister returns from Egypt

AMMAN (U.T.) — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib returned home on Friday after a three-day official visit to Egypt during which he met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Khatib told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the visit had achieved its objectives and that a three-year operational programme, which constitutes an integral part of an information agreement, concluded between Jordan and Egypt last April.

Mr. Khatib said he held talks with senior information officials in Egypt on coordination in the field of information, main emphasis on training.

Mr. Khatib also said his talks with Egyptian information officials aimed at ensuring coordination between the television and broadcasting corporations and news agencies in both countries. Specialised committees in both countries will start their meetings this week, he said.

The general framework and information line in both countries are identical and consequently "they will reflect on our relations and information work in the Arab World, in particular and the whole world in general," he said.

Mr. Khatib said he met with the Egyptian minister of culture and discussed with him issues pertaining to theatrical work and means of learning from the vast Egyptian experience in this field.

Mr. Khatib said he also accompanied the Egyptian ambassador to Jordan, Thab Wahbe, and the information councillor at the embassy and senior officials.

See earlier story on page 3

Turkey protests Israeli attack on boat

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey on Friday lodged a protest over the Israeli shooting and seizure of a Turkish boat near the coast of the occupied Gaza Strip, terming the action a "dangerous act of irresponsibility."

An Israeli patrol vessel opened fire on a small Turkish boat on Monday when it allegedly refused to heed calls to stop. Israeli soldiers later "found" a dead man on deck.

A Foreign Ministry statement said that Turkey took the view that the Israeli patrol vessel opened fire on an unarmed, small, civilian boat cruising in international waters, causing the death of one person.

The Turkish government relayed its protest to the office of the Israeli charge d'affaires here, also demanding compensation and the release of the Turkish crew members of the boat.

Israeli military sources have said the boat was forced to stop because of suspicions that it was carrying smugglers or Palestinian commandos.

The sources also said Thursday that the boat and the seven crew members would be freed but the body of the dead man would be kept for an autopsy.

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Soviet experts begin returning to S. Yemen

BEIRUT (Agencies) — South Yemen's new rulers were quoted Friday as saying Soviet experts who were evacuated during last month's civil war have begun returning to South Yemen.

"The Soviet Union has begun sending back its experts. They will be returning gradually. We want them back," an official of the new government said. The Soviet Union's ruling Socialist Party held the independent Beirut newspaper, *Al-Naba*.

Beit did not spell out the number of Soviet experts stationed in the country or the number of those who have returned. But reports in the Arab press had said there were up to 7,000 Soviet experts in South Yemen.

Beit was elected to the party's top post last week, following the ouster of President Ali Nasser Muhammad in the bloodiest power struggle within the Socialist Party since South Yemen's independence from Britain in 1967.

Thousands of people were killed, wounded or classified as missing in the two-week battles between rival party wings in Aden, the capital. Arab press reports said as many as 12,000 Yemenis were killed.

The nation's new president, Haidar Abu Bakr al-Attas, was said in a separate interview with *Al-Naba*'s Arab news editor Ghazi Khairalla that South

Yemen's relations with North Yemen were "very strained."

"Contacts between us is now confined to our ambassador at the United Nations," said Mr. Attas. Improvement of relations with the North is our top priority.

North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh still recognised his ousted South Yemeni counterpart, who now lives in exile in Ethiopia, as legitimate head of state.

Another Beirut newspaper, *As-Safir*, said in an Aden-based dispatch that Soviet embassy guards were gunned down by assassins firing from a speeding car a few days ago. The daily did not elaborate.

The former South Yemeni president, Ali Nasser Muhammad, has accused the new government in Aden of torture and mass dismissals of his supporters from military and party posts.

He told the Abu Dhabi newspaper, *Al-Itihad*, in an interview conducted in Addis Ababa:

"Large numbers of fighters in the (ruling Yemeni Socialist) Party and armed forces continue to face brutal physical and psychological torture."

"There are now show trials of respectable citizens and fighters..."

collective dismissals are continuing in the party membership in a glaring violation of our party's principles."

Mr. Nasser Muhammad said large numbers of party members had been executed by forces loyal to the new government.

Giving his version of the outbreak of fighting on Jan. 13, he said rebel tanks began taking positions early that morning as part of a coup attempt against him.

"When we ordered them to return to the barracks they did not obey, and in less than an hour tanks had spread 40 kilometres from the capital and taken positions in all strategic streets and areas."

"We tried to arrest the leaders of the plot before they could carry it out and clashes broke out which killed several of them."

The new government says "henchmen" of Mr. Nasser Muhammad started the upheaval by gunning down his rivals during a meeting at party headquarters.

Mr. Nasser Muhammad said documents planning the coup were found at the home of former Defence Minister Saleh Moshleh, who was killed on the first day of fighting.

The ousted president's naval commander, Ahmad Abdullah, told *Al-Itihad* 80 per cent of South Yemen's naval weaponry and 90 per cent of its air force were destroyed in the 12-day civil war.

Herzog frees 2 Jewish terrorists

TEL AVIV (AP) — President Chaim Herzog granted clemency to two members of a Jewish terrorist group, a spokesman said on Friday.

The two were Yaacov Heiman and his nephew Boaz Heiman, who were both sentenced last July 10. Court documents said they helped gather arms and explosives for a conspiracy to blow up the Muslim shrines of the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Twenty-three other members of the Jewish terrorist group were convicted of offenses ranging from murder to illegal possession of arms. Fourteen of the 25 defendants remain in jail.

Ami Gluska, Herzog's spokesman, told Israel Army Radio that clemency was granted, on the recommendation of Justice Minister Moshe Nisim, because of the two terrorists' expression of regret for their crimes and their personal backgrounds. He also said the situation of their families while they were in prison "carried great weight."

Herzog also reduced the sentences of 20 other terrorists who were unconnected with the extremist group, Gluska said. He said requests for clemency were a matter of routine and were dealt with according to "considerations other than the carrying out of justice, such as the state of the family and health."

The terrorists' activities included the shooting attack on the Hebrew Islamic College in the West Bank in which three students were killed and 30 wounded in July 1983 and the car-bombing attacks which crippled two West Bank mayors in June 1980.

Yaacov Heiman was sentenced to 40 months in prison for membership in a terrorist organisation and illegal possession of arms.

Boaz Heiman was sentenced to three years for attempted sabotage with explosives and membership in a terrorist organisation. With time off for good behaviour, he would have been set free in April.

Six members of the terrorist group have been released after completing their sentences. One was freed early because he was suffering from cancer, and a total of four (including the Heimans) have been granted clemency by President Herzog.

U.S. fleet continuing exercises off Libya

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — American aircraft carriers were continuing exercises in the central Mediterranean Sea Friday as Libya increased its number of surveillance flights of the U.S. fleet, officials said.

Defence Department officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said fighters from the Coral Sea and Saratoga had moved to intercept about 35 Libyan aircraft Thursday during flight operations that were interrupted at one point by heavy thunderstorms and squalls.

The Pentagon sources had earlier disclosed that the Libyans were launching substantially more surveillance flights this week than the total last month during a similar exercise.

The current U.S. exercise off the Libyan coast began Tuesday and was expected to continue through Friday night.

Officials said the Libyan planes made no threatening gestures during Thursday's exercise. While there were some instances of U.S. planes moving close enough to observe the Libyans visually, most of the Libyan aircraft turned back toward home before the American fighters arrived nearby, the sources said.

"The daily intercept activity remains about the same as it was Wednesday," said one official.

One source said Thursday the Libyan operations had included a few nighttime flights by lone maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

While those planes turned toward Libya before actually reaching the Coral Sea and Saratoga, "it's not a usual thing" for them to fly at night, the source added.

The manoeuvres have so far proved a duplicate of an exercise conducted during the last week of January, with American fighters flying within an area that is close enough to the coast that civilian airliners are controlled by the Tripoli tower.

That latter exercise was conducted as a "show of resolve" after the United States accused Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi of supporting a Palestinian faction believed responsible for the Dec. 27 attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports.

Col. Qadhafi has branded the exercises an "aggressive provocation" and reiterated his claim to the Gulf of Sidra as Libyan waters. The gulf is a large, U-shaped body of water that cuts into the central Libyan coastline. The United States recognises only a 12-nautical-mile territorial limit and has vowed to conduct periodic operations within its waters.

The Pentagon sources said Thursday, however, that planes from the carriers were still operating to the north of the gulf, although within 120 kilometres of some parts of the Libyan coast. The sources added that they knew of no plans during this week's operation to actually move into the gulf.

On Wednesday, the sources said there had been roughly 12

cases of U.S. and Libyan jets crossing paths, but refused to say exactly how many planes were involved.

The sources said Thursday that with the exception of the reconnaissance aircraft, most of the Libyan flights were conducted with two or four planes, primarily Soviet-made MiG-23s and 25s and French-built Mirage fighters.

Blacks, Indians defy ban

Meanwhile a group of 11 American Indians and blacks, all carriers of U.S. passports, told a news conference in Tripoli Thursday they were visiting Libya in defiance of President Ronald Reagan's travel ban.

President Reagan imposed economic sanctions against Libya on Jan. 7 and banned Americans from travelling to the North African country, with those who defied the ban to face prosecution upon their return to the U.S.

Nzingha Dalila, 23, of Cincinnati, Ohio, said the group represented "seven revolutionary and progressive movements in the United States," who called a "Hands-Off Libya" news conference earlier this month in Washington D.C.

Vernon Bellecourt, from the White Earth Anishinabai Nation, said the group's visit was in response to Libyan leader Qadhafi's call for a "strategic alliance between the African and the original

natural and indigenous peoples of the western hemisphere who are today called Indians."

Bellecourt, who wore traditional Indian dress complete with beaded necklaces and braided hair, said American Indians and Africans had been "historically the first victims of U.S. terrorist acts" which continued to this day.

The travel ban was imposed after Washington accused Libya of supporting the gunmen who attacked Rome and Vienna airports.

Among the group was Stokely Carmichael, a leading black activist of the 1960's, who now goes by the name of Kwami Ture.

Ture said the group had no plan of action "if Reagan is stupid enough to arrest us." They would decide what action to take on their return to the United States.

"Imperialism has a logic of its own which is irrational. But we as fighters for the people are rational men and women," he said.

Also with the group were Dawn Decora, 19, from the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Janice Denny, 36, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ahmad Obafemi, 47, of New York. Tenda Halima, 37, of Los Angeles, California. Kmadonna Thunder Hawk, 45, of the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. Ernie Longwalker and Warrior Woman of Los Angeles, California, and Nhande Imari, 28, of Oakland, Ohio.

SLA gunners shell S. Lebanon port

SIDON (Agencies) — Artillery shells crashed into this southern port as clashes flared nearby between Lebanese opposition and Israeli-backed forces, security sources said.

Three rounds fired by the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) slammed into the port centre during a two-hour shelling exchange at a mountain battle at 10 kilometres to the east.

There were no immediate reports of casualties but people stayed indoors and traffic in Sidon was light. The shelling at the front, which began at dawn, was audible in the city.

Five fighters of Sidon's "Popular Liberation Army" militia, been killed and eight wounded in a three-day fighting at the front over the past three days.

Friday's shelling was the first to hit Sidon since SLA gunners pum-

ped rounds into the Sunni Muslim city at the New Year, killing three people.

Further south, a French soldier with U.N. peacekeeping forces was killed when a U.N. troop carrier in which he was travelling overturned, the security sources said.

Another soldier in the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was injured in the incident near the port of Tyre, they said.

U.N. Spokesman Timor Goksel identified the Frenchman as Pvt. Prulo Rocheteau, 20, of the French battalion's logistics unit. His troop carrier overturned near the village of Chehabieh Thursday.

Goksel said Rocheteau was the 15th Frenchman killed in South Lebanon since the nine-nation U.N. peacekeeping force was sent to the region in 1978.

Altogether, 116 of the 5,500-

man force have died in that period, most of them in accidents. But some were killed by commandos or other forces that operate in South Lebanon.

Six French troops observers based in Beirut have also been killed since the 60-man unit arrived in the Lebanese capital in March, 1984.

Two opposition fighters were killed and four wounded Thursday when SLA militiamen shelled their positions near Sidon, security sources said.

They said fighting flared in mid-afternoon and artillery fire from the front could be heard clearly in Sidon.

Three opposition militiamen were killed and four injured by SLA shelling on front-line positions Wednesday night, in the heaviest clashes since three people were killed there at the New Year.

Genscher: Mideast peace settlement is urgently needed

BERLIN (AP) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher says that terrorism is a "terrifying warning" that a peace settlement in the Middle East is urgently needed.

Thursday night at a banquet Genscher said that West Germany had expressed this view recently to visiting Arab leaders, among them Egyptian President Forni Mubarak and Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi.

Mr. Genscher was due to end an official visit to Morocco and go to Tunisia. He said West Germany

would support moderate Arab states and all efforts of reconciliation and mediation for a peaceful settlement.

"The bloody path of terrorism across Middle East states as well as across Europe is a terrifying warning sign that shows the time has come finally to tackle with firmness and determination the still unsolved Middle East conflict," he said.

Bonn was ready to do this jointly with its partners in the European Community. At forthcoming meetings devoted to

European political cooperation "we will seek to draft operational concepts to this end," he said.

"We are convinced that the Middle East conflict can be solved only if the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is realised, as well as the right to existence and security of states in the Mediterranean area, including Israel," he said.

According to West German political sources, Bonn is seeking multi-national cooperation to combat terrorism and Mr. Genscher said that "far from solving

problems, force only creates new and bigger ones." However, he emphasised that the root cause had to be eradicated by means of peaceful solutions.

He said the 1982 Arab summit in the Moroccan city of Fez, where a peace plan was adopted unanimously, had marked the beginning of detente in the Middle East.

He added that the special summit held in Casablanca last August attended by Arab leaders had set in motion mediation missions to settle inter-Arab disputes.

France expels 13 people of Mideast origin

PARIS (R) — The French government, eager to demonstrate a firm hand and calm public fears before March elections, Friday made plans to expel 13 people, mostly of Middle East origin, picked up for questioning after recent bombings.

The three Iranians, four Iraqis, four Lebanese, one Kenyan and one Algerian were all being expelled as "public troublemakers," the Interior Ministry said Thursday.

A ministry spokesman said they must leave the country within six days. He said the four Lebanese could be put on flights to Beirut if airlines could be persuaded to accept them.

The 13 were among some 64 suspects rounded up in Paris and eight other French cities early on Wednesday after a spate of bomb attacks last week in Paris that left 21 people injured.

Last week's bombings, and a warning this week that a fresh wave of "very deadly attacks" could follow, have exacerbated the fears of an already jittery French public.

The right-wing opposition parties, the Neo-Gaullist RPR and the centre-right UDF who are widely expected to win the March 16 parliamentary elections, have been hitting hard with claims that the ruling Socialists are lax.

Chad asks for return of French troops

PARIS (R) — Chad has asked France to send troops to its former African colony following renewed heavy fighting between President Hissene Habre's government forces and Libyan-backed rebels who control the north.

After reports that the rebels, headed by Goukouni Oueddei, were fighting government forces south of the so-called Red Line dividing the two forces, Chad Ambassador Allim-Mi Ahmad told French television Friday his country had asked for French forces to return and added: "I have confidence in France."

French troops went to Chad in 1983 to act as a buffer between the Libyan-backed rebels and government forces after the rebels had taken over the northern region.

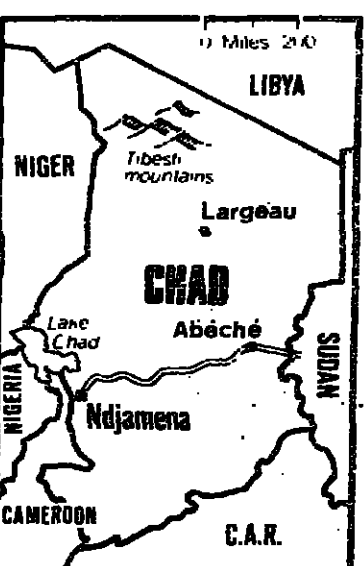
Secret talks between France and Libya led to an agreement for Libyan and French troops to withdraw in 1984 but intelligence reports have shown a continued Libyan presence in the north.

French Defence Ministry sources said no decision on the sending of French forces would be taken until Defence Minister Paul Quilès returned from a visit to the region and briefed ministers.

However, they recalled External Relations Minister Roland Dumas' statement that French troops would return if Libyan forces did.

French television said fighting was reported around the town of Oum Chalouba, in the east of the country, and Ziguiey in the West.

Western diplomats said that if reports of fighting in the town of Ziguiey were confirmed, it would pose serious problems for Mr. Habre.



to N'Djamena for talks with the Chad president and also sending President Francois Mitterrand's special adviser Guy Penne, on a mission to the region.

Mr. Mitterrand, who met Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi in Cyprus for surprise talks after the French troops withdrew in November 1984, said Friday he was following the situation in Chad very closely.

Speaking to reporters during a tour in central France, Mr. Mitterrand said: "We are following it very closely... I am only interested in facts, not intentions. In desert battles, it is always he who attacks who has the initial advantage but distances mean that the situation can often change."

He said he had already received the report from Mr. Penne and was now awaiting an appreciation of the situation from Mr. Quilès, who left Chad Friday to visit French forces based in the Central African Republic.

Mr. Quilès told reporters after an hour-long meeting with Mr. Habre Friday that France would respect its commitments towards Chad. The two countries are linked by a 10-year-old military cooperation accord which, however, rules out any direct combat role for French troops.

Mr. Quilès described his visit there as "routine" but he acknowledged that French forces stationed in the neighbouring state had a vital part to play in Chad's defence.

Informed Chadian sources said Mr. Habre was likely to have pressed Mr. Quilès for increased arms deliveries and possibly retaliatory action by French troops stationed across Chad's southern border.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION		21:55	News Summary
Tel: 753111-1114		22:00	The Blues
		22:10	News Summary
		22:15	Country Music
		22:25	News Headlines
		22:30	Close down
MAIN CHANNEL			
19:00	Koran		
19:30	Cartoons		
19:45	Children's programmes		
19:55	Play It Safe		
20:05	Different Strokes		
20:15	Local Series		
20:25	News Feature		
20:35	News in Arabic		
20:45	Arabic Series		
20:55	Tomorrow's programmes		
21:00	Arabic Film		
21:10	World News in Arabic		
21:20	Arabic Film		
21:30	Arabic Film		
21:40	Arabic Film		
21:50	Arabic Film		
FOREIGN CHANNEL			
19:00	French Programme: Ecole des		
19:30	10th on place (French varieties)		
19:45	News in French		
19:55	Bergeval et fils		
20:05	News in Arabic		
20:15	News in Hebrew		
20:25	Mind Your Language		
20:35	Starring the Actors		
20:45	Saturday Variety Show		
20:55	News in English		
21:00	Feature film: Valley of Mystery		
RADIO JORDAN			
35.5 KHz. AM & 96.4 MHz. FM			
Public & 96.4 FM			
Tel: 74111-1114			
19:00	Light Music		
19:30	Newsweek		
19:45	Evening Show		
19:55	News Summary		
20:05	Pop Session		
20:15	News Summary		
20:25	Pop Session contd.		
20:35	News Summary		
20:45	Pop Session contd.		
20:55	News Bulletin		
21:00	Jordan Weekly		
21:10	Music		
21:20	Concert Hour		
21:30	News Summary		
21:40	Instrumentals		
21:50	Old Favourites		
22:00	Talking Points		
22:10	Annual Variety Material		
22:20	News Summary		
22:30	Top Twenty		
22:40	News		
22:50	Date with a Star		
23:00	The 15th Century		
23:10	The Young Sound		
23:20	News Summary		
23:30	25 Years of Rock		
BBC WORLD SERVICE			
634, 720, 1413 KHz.			
06:00	Newsweek 06:30 That's That 06:45		
06:50	Friday News 6:55 Reflections 07:00		
07:10	World News 07:24 News Summary		
07:30	Summary 07:30 About Britain 07:45		
07:50	The World Today 08:00 Newsweek		
08:30	Merkian 09:00 World News 09:09		
09:15	Round News Summary 09:20 News		
09:30	Weeklies 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00		
10:15	World News 10:20 Reflections 10:15 A		
10:30	Joely Good Show 11:00 World News		
11:30	British Press Review 11:15 The		
11:40	World Today 11:50 World News		
11:50	Look Ahead 11:45 The Music		
12:00	Business 12:00 News Summary; That's		
12:15	That 12:15 Letter from America 12:30		
12:40	News and Politics 13:00 World News		
13:10	News Summary 13:10 About Britain		
13:15	About Britain 13:30 Meridian 14:00		
14:00	Newsweek 14:15 Anything Goes 14:45		
14:50	Sports Round-up 15:00 World News		
15:10	Twenty-four Hours: News Summary		
15:30	News 15:30 Network U.K. 15:45		
15:50	Country Style 16:00 News Summary 16:30		
16:40	Saturday Special 17:00 Round Review		
17:15	Special Summary 18:00 World News		
18:10	News 18:10 Commentary 18:15		
18:20	Saturday Special 19:00 News Summary;		
19:10	Saturday Special 19:45 Sports Round-		
19:50	up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Play News		
20:40	Weekend - A Midsummer Night's Dream		
21:00	News Summary; A Midsummer		
21:10	Night's Dream 22:30 World News 22:30		
22:40	24 Hours, News Summary		
VOICE OF AMERICA			
1260 MHz. 7200, 9165, 11740 11925			
and 13210 KHz.			
06:00	News 06:10 VOA Morning 06:30		
06:50	News Summary/VOA Morning 07:00		
07:10	News 07:10 Closeup 07:30 News		
07:50	Summary/VOA Morning 08:00 News		
08:10	VOA Morning 08:30 News		
08:50	Summary/VOA Morning 09:00 News		
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of Jordanian environment: art works by David Roberts and John Lewis at the Housing Bank complex.

* French exhibition: "Jerash, vie et mort du sanctuaire de Zeus" at the French Cultural Centre in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities (until Feb. 15).

JAZZ CONCERT

* The Goethe Institute presents the Quintet Duo — Martin Kolbe and Rolf Henninger in a jazz concert at 8:00 p.m. at the Hays Arts Centre.

PIANO RECITAL

* A piano recital by the Turkish artist Cana Guzman at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

VIDEO

* "Les ames 30" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 6610267
American Centre . 6643721
American Centre Library . 6643720
British Council . 6643720
French Cultural Centre . 6610267
Goethe Institute . 6610267
Soviet Cultural Centre . 6643720
Spanish Cultural Centre . 6643720
Turkish Cultural Centre . 6610267
Hays Arts Centre . 6651955
Hussien Youth City . 6671816
Y.W.C.A. . 6617955
Y.W.M.C.A. . 6643721
Armenian Municipal Library . 6371111
University of Jordan Library . 8435555

MUSEUMS

Polk Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Mesopotamia and Persia (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Holidays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Closed Tuesdays.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lease Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m.
Lease Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the international Hotel. 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261. 815410.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624599.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lwehdeh. 637440.
De la Sante Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. 678906.
Armenian Catholic Church Astrafish. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Astrafish. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Astrafish. 771751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) .
Baptist School in Shmeisani. 677534
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 8th Circle. (Rev. N. Smir). Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (Inter-denominational, intercommunal) meet in the Church of the Redeemer. Jabal Amman. Tel. 606974

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 Fajr
06:19 (Sunrise) Dubai
11:58 Dubai
14:57 'Asr
17:22 Maghreb
18:46 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport and is verified, where it should always be (057).

ARRIVALS

06:30	..... Cairo (MS)
07:00	..... London, Larnaca (BA)
08:45	..... Aqaba (RJ)
09:35	..... Kuwait (RJ)
09:50	..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45	..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:55	..... Dhahran (RJ)
10:00	..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:00	..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:10	..... Riyadh (RJ)
10:45	..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
12:10	..... Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:45	..... Kuwait (KU)
16:50	..... Larnaca (RJ)
17:30	..... New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:50	..... Cairo (RJ)
18:00	..... Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:30	..... Rome, Damascus (RJ)
18:30	..... Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:30	..... Tripoli (RJ)
19:30	..... Rome, Damascus (AZ)
20:25	..... Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ)
01:30	..... Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:20	..... Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:30	..... Aqaba (RJ)
06:45	..... Damascus, Athens (OA)
07:15	..... Cairo (MS)
09:10	..... Larnaca London (BA)
10:30	..... Tripoli (RJ)
11:30	..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)
11:30	..... London (RJ)
11:45	..... Geneva, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15	..... Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:30	..... Rome, Madrid (RJ)
13:00	..... Larnaca (RJ)
13:30	..... Cairo (RJ)
13:30	..... Bahrain (GF)
15:00	..... Kuwait (KU)
19:30	..... Kuwait (RJ)
20:45	..... Doha (RJ)
20:15	..... Bahrain, Cairo (RJ)
20:15	..... Jeddah (RJ)
20:30	..... Baghdad (IA)
21:15	..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

REGULAR-LINE SHIPS DOCKING AT QUEEN ALIA PORT:

- Ville de Ponce
- Brave Eagle
- Bumbesti
- Balceges

Amir Kavar and Sons Company, Tel: 622234-9 at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Thursday rates	
Local sell/buy rates in fils	
Bahraini dinar	960 968
Dutch guilder	133.7/ 136
Egyptian pounds	200/ 206
French franc	49.3/ 50
Irani dinar	344/ 352
Japanese yen (for 100)	193.3/ 197.2
Kuwaiti dinar	1267/ 1274
Lebanese lire	14/ 16
Omani rial	940/ 950
Qatari rial	99/ 101
Saudi riyal	98/ 101
Swedish crown	47.8/ 48.5
Swiss franc	180.6/ 184.1
Syrian lira	23/ 25
UAE dirham	98/ 100
US sterling pound	503.5/ 512
US dollar	356.6/ 360.8
W. German mark	151.2/ 153.7

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will continue to be cloudy and rainy, with thunder and hail storms at times. West and fresh winds will become stronger at times and highlands may have slight snowfalls. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy, with thunderstorms and southerly fresh winds and wavy sea.

Amman	3/6
Aqaba	10/19
Deterets	4/7
Jordan Valley	10/13

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman: 7, Aqaba: 20. Humidity range:
Aqaba: Amman 93 per cent, Aqaba 24

Kayed outlines discussions of interior ministers' council

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, which ended in Casablanca last week, voiced total support for Iraq in its efforts to end the Gulf war and appealed to Arab countries to help Iraq and Iran end their dispute by peaceful means, according to Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed who led Jordan's delegation to the meeting.

The minister said in an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the council also condemned Israel's acts of terrorism against the Arab people of Palestine and its violations of the sanctity of the holy places in the occupied Arab lands. The council denounced Israel's hijacking of the Libyan plane over the Mediterranean and urged Arab governments to undertake joint action designed to resist all acts of terrorism directed against any Arab country, the minister said.

Mr. Kayed continued that the council has entrusted its general secretariat to draw up a study on a declaration that would differentiate between acts of terrorism and resistance activity designed to achieve freedom.

According to Mr. Kayed, the ministers discussed matters connected with inter-Arab cooperation in combating crimes and coordination of plans among security services in Arab countries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Omani finance official arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Income and Investment Department at the Omani Finance Ministry Hmoud Ibn Ibrahim Ibn Soumar arrived in Amman Friday on a short visit to Jordan. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Soumar said he is conveying a message to Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai from his Omani counterpart Kais Zawawi and will meet a number of Jordanian officials. Mr. Soumar was received upon arrival by Ministry of Finance Under Secretary Abdul Majid Qasem and a number of senior officials in addition to Omani Ambassador to Jordan Abdullah Said Abdullah.

Mayor of Muscat ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Mayor of Muscat Sheikh Ahmad Ibn Sultan Al Housani left Amman Thursday at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan during which he signed a protocol for cooperation in public services and municipal affairs between Amman and Muscat. The mayor was briefed on projects for developing public services in Amman and toured archaeological sites in the Kingdom. On Thursday morning Sheikh Housani was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The mayor and his delegation were seen off by Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh and the Omani ambassador to Jordan.

Man dies, 8 hurt as two taxis crash

IRBID (J.T.) — A 37-year-old man, Hikmat Bader Salim Naser, was killed and other eight people were injured in a road accident which occurred Thursday near Al Husun camp in Irbid. The vehicles involved were a private taxi and a public service taxi. Five of the eight people injured in the accident were from the same family. All the casualties were taken to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid and were reported to be in satisfactory conditions.

Arab airlines meet in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Meetings of the training committee of the Arab Air Transport Union opened in Amman on Thursday to discuss scopes of cooperation among Arab civil aviation companies. Participants from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, Libya and the Gulf Airways company are taking part in the meetings.

Engineers mark Arbor Day

SALT (Petra) — The Agricultural Engineers Association Friday celebrated Arbor Day by planting forest and fruit trees at Zai in Balqa Governorate. Taking part in the celebrations were the president of the Jordanian Engineers Association, branch members from Salt and Karak and a large number of agricultural engineers.

Case of a 'disappearing' language: Classical losing to colloquial Arabic

By Najwa Najjar

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There is a major problem on the linguistic level in the Arab World and the fate of the Latin language and culture could happen to the Arabic language and culture, if some solution is not found to rectify the deteriorating condition, according to Dr. Fawaz Tuqan, professor of Arabic literature at the University of Jordan.

Dr. Tuqan referred to the work of Dr. Charles Ferguson, a linguist who has done extensive research on Arabic in the Middle East. Dr. Ferguson believes that since it has become increasingly common for local dialects to replace classical Arabic, within the coming 100 years the Arabic language will be split into three languages. The first will be the North African language influenced by the Tunisian or Moroccan dialects; the Egyptian dialect will dominate the second language, Egyptian, and a "Fertile Crescent" language will be based on the Iraqi dialect with Semitic-Arabic retreating into Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. Dr. Ferguson's research concludes that the classical Arabic language will be in the same predicament as the Latin language, dividing into other languages before dying out.

One of the factors that has had a negative effect on classical language is the manner in which it is taught in schools, said Dr. Tuqan. He believes that classical Arabic is being taught in an "awkward manner" which leads to poor standards. "Classical Arabic is taught as a second language using the techniques of teaching English to the English. The difference here is that classical Arabic is another language. Colloquial Arabic is the child's mother-tongue. This is the language the child uses for communication. When the child goes to school he is exposed to another

language which he reads in his textbooks. However, the discussions held about the material read, is done in the child's mother-tongue," he said.

Both Mr. Khalid Nabiti, Chief of Public Education, and Mr. Farouk Badran, director of education in the Amman district, are in agreement with Dr. Tuqan. They feel that the standard of classical Arabic in schools is not as high as it should be. However, many steps have been taken to correct this deficiency and both said that over the past two years they have been attempting to implement a system in which teachers must speak classical Arabic to students as young as five years old in almost all courses students are obliged to take such as history, geography, physics and chemistry.

Integrated approach

Dr. Tuqan feels that the best method is the use of integrated teaching techniques and the discouragement of the spoken language, Egyptian, and a "Fertile Crescent" language. "Learning a language requires more than merely speaking the language. The individual must be willing to accept the culture, and open his heart to the language, understanding the symbolism and images within." In order to promote cultural integration, classical Arabic should be taught like the Russians teach Russian in the non-Russian sections of the USSR or as the French teach French in the Balkan areas of France. Dr. Tuqan told the Jordan Times. Cultural integration for Arabs would mean dressing in the traditional manner, reading books of Arab authors and listening to Arabic music, he continued.

This, together with discouraging the use of colloquial language succeeded in China and Dr. Tuqan feels that if a country with a population of over 700 million and 450 languages was able to

implement the classical Chinese language, why cannot the same occur in the Arab World which does not have nearly as large a population or number of languages.

Language and unity

Many people may ask why should classical Arabic be preserved as such and in reply Dr. Tuqan says: "First and foremost is because language is a unifying factor among Arabs who speak various dialects. Language is the easiest means of communication. Instead of local entertainment, television series, plays and songs being looked within the boundaries of smaller states, the use of classical Arabic will enable culture to travel from the Atlantic to the Arabian Gulf."

Secondly, classical Arabic is the means by which modern Arabs can look back at the great civilisation of their past, according to Dr. Tuqan. Literary traditions which date back to the third century AD will be lost if Arabs lose the classical Arabic language, he continued.

Furthermore, classical Arabic is the language of Islam. The Koran, said Dr. Tuqan, cannot be translated into other languages because of the inimitability of the Koranic style. The loss of an excellent means of unity, cultural background and spirituality, is what the Arabs would face with the loss of the classical Arabic language, he added. A serious effort to promote the use of the classical language in all areas of life is worth the trouble since its loss could be so damaging, said Dr. Tuqan, who is aware that it may take time for society to accept and implement his ideas. However, he feels that once people understand the importance of the classical language and the danger it is facing, implementation will become much easier.



PROUD PARENTS: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor leave the King Hussein Medical Centre with their newborn baby daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Raiyah, who was born on Sunday Feb. 9 (Photo by Zohrab)

Heavy rain causes flooding, hazards but bodes well for agriculture

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — A frontal depression which has affected Jordan since Thursday evening will settle over the Kingdom Saturday resulting in a further drop in temperature and expected light snow over high mountains, according to Meteorology Department Director General Ali Abanda.

Dr. Abanda told the Jordan Times that the depression, which moved towards the Kingdom from the central Mediterranean, was associated with cold fronts which crossed the region from the west causing heavy rain, light snow and hail in some parts of the Kingdom. The accumulated rainfall for this reason improved remarkably — from around 50 per cent up to 90 per cent, as a result of heavy rainfall during February.

A source in the agricultural sector said that the quantity of rainfall which fell is likely to help water reserves and he also said that pastures in highland areas and open-field crops also benefitted from the rain although he added that it came a bit too late for the wheat crop planted in November. The source, however, expressed optimism that the recent rainfall would help agriculture and make the season more productive. The

source also noted that thunder and lightning storms which occurred during Thursday night could harm the blossoming of almond trees.

Power cuts

Electricity blackouts, flooding of houses, blocked culverts in streets and impassable roads were reported in some areas of Greater Amman and throughout the Kingdom.

Mr. Samir Qardan, director of the Emergency Department at the Jordanian Electric Power Company (JEPCO) said that the Sahab industrial area and its surrounding zone were blocked out for a few hours due to "technical problems" in the area's major electricity cables. "But all complaints were dealt with immediately," said Mr. Qardan and he pointed out that the company received 57 individual complaints concerning "but in electricity supply in people's houses on Friday."

Mr. Qardan requested the public to cooperate with JEPCO since its mobile electricity workshops are at the service of the public. He also stressed that the arrival time of the mobile workshop depends on the distance of the site from its base. Sources from the company said that it received 57 individual complaints late Thursday evening after the bad weather conditions hit the country. "All of these requests have been answered," the sources added.

Colonel Ziad Al Maani, from the Civil Defence Department's

rescue department told the Jordan Times that "minor" accidents such as water flooding into houses, houses being abandoned due to the accumulation of high levels of water around the homes and the blockage of street culverts in some main streets.

An official from the Public Security Department (PSD) Friday said that all roads throughout the Kingdom were safe for driving except for three major roads which were closed due to fog, slippery surfaces, snowfall or poor visibility. These roads are: Zarqa-Tawahin Al Adwan, the Ajloun area and Thagrat Asfour in Jerash.

The PSD official cautioned all drivers to be "careful and watchful," while driving throughout the Kingdom.

At the airport

No air traffic problems were reported at the Queen Alia International Airport until Friday evening although an aviation official said that the landing of some flights was delayed for a maximum of 10 minutes. However, some passengers missed their flights because they failed to arrive at the scheduled time for their departure due to bad visibility on the airport road.

A number of people were seen queuing at the petrol stations with large containers and they said they were "preparing" in case the snowfall continued and eventually blocked roads or brought services to a halt.

Arab pharmaceutical firms discuss industrial federation

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of nine Arab pharmaceutical companies and the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA) Thursday opened a two-day meeting in Amman to study the implementation of a programme for promoting the activities of the Arab Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries.

According to the chairman of the meeting, Mr. Nizar Jandaneh, the federation aims to provide medical supplies to the Arab World in a bid to promote efforts

for inter Arab economic integration. The Amman-based federation, established at the start of 1986, groups representatives of drug companies in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, North Yemen, Syria, Sudan, Libya and Jordan in addition to ACDIMA.

The nine delegates meeting in Amman will discuss coordination among their companies and their countries in the production of medical supplies and providing drugs and high quality medicines at a reasonable cost.

German duo to play tonight

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Goethe Institute in Amman will present the most famous German guitar duo, Martin Kolbe and Ralf Illenberger, in concert at the Haya Arts Centre on Saturday Feb. 15 at 8:00 p.m. The event is organised in cooperation with the Haya Arts Centre and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Together since 1977, Martin and Ralf play in complete and perfect harmony. Their two guitars establish an instant communication channel with flawless synchronicity of rhythm and expression. Although strongly jazz flavoured, their style is very personal and reflects various influences like folk, the Beatles and other kinds of music on which they were raised.

In their hotel room in Amman, they played a couple of numbers using two fine acoustic guitars. They explained it was very important for them that the audience

in a concert listens to a sound as perfect as possible, and that they will be using for this purpose acoustic guitars with a sophisticated amplification and equalisation system.

MUSIC PREVIEW

Although relatively young, both of them are less than thirty, they have already released six successful albums. With an average of 100 concerts a year, regular television appearances and tours in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, Martin Kolbe and Ralf Illenberger have reached musical maturity, without losing the spontaneity and inspiration of their youth. Listening to them is believing that they love to play and write music.

Except for one or two compositions, Martin and Ralf will be playing their own music. The Haya Arts Centre theatre should be an ideal venue for a music which talks directly, informally and emotionally to the audience.

Health Ministry to launch vaccination campaign for tetanus, measles today

New programme to be directed at pregnant women

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health will today launch an intensive campaign to vaccinate children against measles and to provide pregnant women with the tetanus toxoid vaccine, according to Dr. Hani Shammout, director of the Ministry's Infectious Diseases and Vaccination Department.

Dr. Shammout told the Jordan Times that the ministry has been providing vaccination services to children at all its health and medical centres but he explained that the new campaign aims to intensify and generalise immunisation services in all regions. According to Dr. Shammout, teams from the ministry and all hospitals and mother and child care centres will be helping in the campaign and these teams will also carry out an awareness pro-

motion campaign to inform the public about such diseases. The campaign, expected to last two weeks, aims at controlling measles which can cause cerebral palsy, blindness and death to babies if contracted by pregnant women. Dr. Shammout said.

He said that the ministry has been providing vaccination services to some 65 per cent of the population but he added that the campaign aims to raise this rate to 90 per cent.

The ministry earlier launched other campaigns against polio and succeeded in reducing the annual number of cases in Jordan from 60 to one and the ministry has no record of a single diphtheria case in the country over the past two years.

Dr. Shammout said that the tetanus toxoid vaccine will be given to pregnant women to provide immunity to both the mothers and their babies. Apart from the ministry centres, he said, there will be teams who will conduct tours in different regions providing the vaccination service. The present rate of pregnant women vaccinated against tetanus in Jordan is 26.3 per cent, which is considered low when compared with the rates of immunisation against polio, diphtheria and measles.

Committee assesses operations on land-sea link

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint Egyptian-Jordanian committee entrusted with supervising transport operations along the Aqaba-Nuweibeh land-sea route ended a meeting in Amman Thursday with heads of both sides signing minutes of the deliberations.

A statement issued at the end of the meeting said the committee was satisfied that the project has achieved the objectives set by His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, adding that the route has helped to bolster trade between the two countries.

According to the statement, a total of 360,000 passengers used this route to travel between Egypt and Jordan and more than 13,000 small cars, 3,000 trucks and other vehicles crossed to Aqaba and Nuweibeh since the line opened nine months ago. The route is expected to be used by Egyptian Muslims on their way to Saudi Arabia during the coming pilgrimage season in view of the relatively low transport cost, the statement said.

The statement said that the two sides reviewed measures to be taken by the national maritime companies in Egypt and Jordan to implement an agreement on navigational cooperation signed earlier. The committee also reviewed steps to be taken for Egypt to join the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Corporation.

The minutes were signed by Under Secretary of the Ministry of Transport Mutaz Al Bilbeisi and Mr. Mohammad Adel Al Barouqi, chairman of the board of directors of the Egyptian maritime transport corporation.

Jordan, Egypt take steps to implement information protocol

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt have exchanged instruments of ratification of an information agreement which they signed in April 1985.

Representing Jordan at the signing ceremony and the exchange of documents was Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib while his Egyptian counterpart Safwat Al Sharif signed the documents for Egypt.

The two ministers also signed a protocol on a programme for implementing this agreement between 1986 and 1988. Under the agreement, the two countries undertake to coordinate cooperation in radio, television and news affairs and will exchange expertise and programmes. Both sides will also offer training facilities for media and information personnel from either country.

Mubarak receives Khatib. Earlier, Mr. Khatib and Mr. Sharif held a meeting at the Egyptian Ministry of Information to discuss bilateral cooperation in information-related affairs. Directors of radio and television corporations in both countries attended the meeting. Earlier Thursday, Mr. Khatib was received by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The meeting at the presidential palace was attended by Mr. Safwat Al Sharif.

Mr. Khatib, who arrived in Cairo on Wednesday evening at the head of an official Jordanian delegation, said that his meetings with Egyptian officials will cover scopes of cooperation in information materials and exchange as well as means of preventing interference between radio and television transmissions from both countries.

European Broadcasting Union concludes meeting in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — The television news committee of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) concluded a three-day meeting in Aqaba on Thursday. During the meeting the committee discussed a number of issues related to the exchange of news, information and children's programmes within the EBU and with the Arab Broadcasting Union (ABU) and other broadcasting unions. The committee also discussed private television companies and commercial television unions in Europe and Third World countries and their effects on the rights of EBU member countries.

Also discussed was the tariff charged for the exchange of satellite photographs and films and ways of reducing this tariff. The

committee also decided to hold a seminar in Copenhagen in mid May for the directors or chief editors of news departments at television corporations within the EBU to assess the EBU's role in news exchange and in obtaining urgent news stories. It was also decided during the meeting to form a news committee to take part in the international conference of broadcasting unions which will be held in Prague next week. The committee decided to hold its next conference in France during September.

Taking part in the meeting were delegates from television stations in Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, Arab countries and news agencies.

Iraq reports Iranian ouster from Majnoon

(Continued from page 1)

kilometres of Iraqi land, bringing the total of Iraqi territory occupied by Iran since it launched its "new" offensive across the Shatt Al Arab on Sunday night to 750 kilometres.

Iran had claimed its punch westwards had reached and encircled Iraq's naval base at Um Al Qasr, adjacent to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

Iran has charged Iraq started using poison gas to stem the advance. Iraq however has denied using chemical weapons, countering that Iran with doing so, which, in turn, also denied this.

The seven Arab foreign ministers who conferred in Iraq Wednesday called for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider Iran's aggression against Iraq. They represent Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Tunis, Morocco and North Yemen.

The seven-member Arab League committee warned Iran that "continuation of its aggression against Iraq would undermine Arab-Iranian relations."

In a statement read to newsmen by Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, it added: "The committee demands that Iran stop the fighting immediately."

Mr. Klibi said the committee called for international action to end the fighting.

The committee asked the Security Council to "take serious practical and speedy measures to put an end to this war and to resolve the conflict by peaceful means."

The request referred to a review by the Arab League foreign ministers on the Gulf situation, "which has arisen on account of Iran's new extensive military aggression against the sovereignty of Iraq and its territory east of Basra and the Arab Gulf on 9 and 10 February."

The signatories said that "in view of this grave situation and of the fact that it constitutes a great threat to international peace and security in general and in particular in that region" they requested an urgent council meeting.

But at two news conferences in New York, Iranian delegate to the U.N. Rajae Khorassani indicated he would not take part in the council debate, expected to get under way next week, unless that body first condemned Iraq's alleged use of chemical weapons.

At the international level, China and the United States have joined the Arab states in expressing concern over the Iranian offensive.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry called for an immediate ceasefire, while the U.S. State Department said "major, hostile" changes in the region could pose a threat to America and its allies.

Philippines bishops denounce polls as fraudulent

(Continued from page 1)

The committee report has to be formally accepted by the full assembly, which is dominated by Mr. Marcos' ruling New Society Movement (KBL). It is certain to proclaim 68-year-old Marcos president for a fourth term of office.

But it was not clear when the assembly would act.

Political sources said Mr. Marcos might hold back until after the visit by Philip Habib, a special envoy sent by President Reagan to take a close look at the implications of the election on Philippine-U.S. relations. He arrives on Saturday night from Washington.

Mrs. Aquino has slapped down suggestions by Mr. Reagan and Mr. Marcos that she might work with Mr. Marcos to try to ease the

developing political crisis. She plans a mass meeting on Sunday which supporters declared will be a proclamation rally.

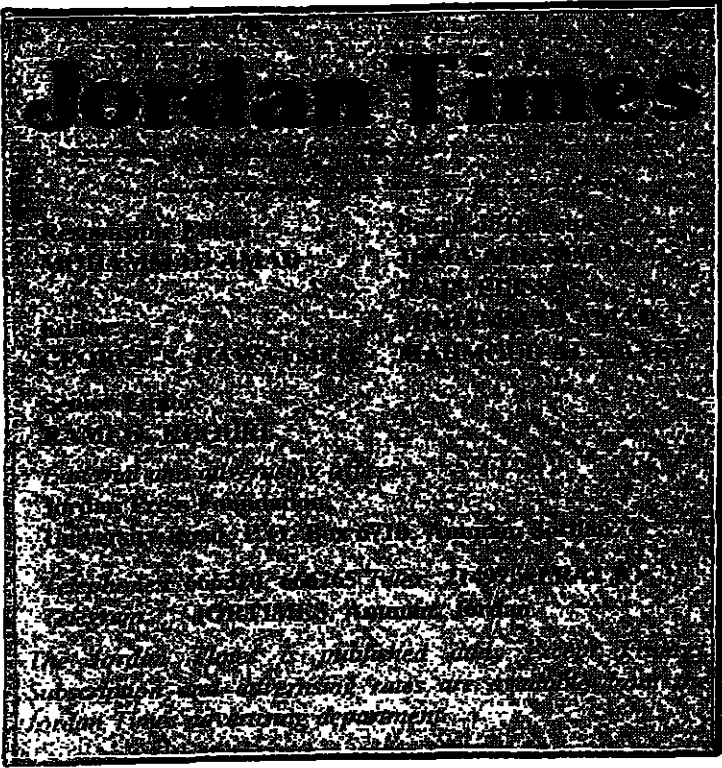
She is expected to announce plans for a non-violent civil disobedience campaign, which was implicitly supported by many of the 60 bishops who attended the two-day conference.

Among them was Cardinal Jaime Sin, the Philippines' senior prelate and one of Mr. Marcos' most vigorous critics. He was to officiate at a mass during the Sunday rally.

An Aquino aide said the bishops' statement "only confirms what he have known all along — that Marcos lost the election."

ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. commercial office announces that it has moved to the U.S. Embassy building on Jabal Amman opposite the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. The new office is open for visitors and phone inquiries daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except Fridays and Saturdays.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Israeli designs

ISRAELI Prime Minister Shimon Peres has been inciting the Palestinian people in the West Bank to enter into direct negotiations with Israel without Jordan and the PLO. Peres obviously wants the Palestinian people to be split for the sake of disqualifying the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and drawing a wedge between Jordanians and the Palestinians. Peres clearly wants to impose Israel's will on the Palestinians under Israeli rule, and at the same time cause more divisions in Arab ranks. These suspect offers by Peres have failed several times in the past and the new attempt is bound to meet another failure, because the Palestinians will not be taken in by the Israeli plots and intrigues. Peres, along with other Israeli leaders, have described the PLO as a terrorist group forgetting about Israel's terrorist activities. Israelis continue to launch a campaign world-wide to distort the image of the PLO. This is clearly intended as a step to pave the way for drawing the Palestinian people away from the PLO and Jordan in order to maintain Israel's domination of Arab land.

Al Dustour: Calling on the U.N.

THE seven-member Arab committee set up by the Arab League to find a solution for the Gulf war has issued a statement expressing support for and solidarity with the Iraqi people in their heroic struggle to defend Arab rights and lands. The committee also issued a call for an end to the war and for the international community to find a just solution for the conflict. So far, the international community has failed to achieve anything in this direction due to Iran's intransigence, and the U.N. Security Council did very little to stop Iran from pursuing its aggression against the Iraqi people. What the Security Council ought to do now, is to stop issuing calls for peace and condemn the aggressors in general terms. What we want now is real action to deter the Iraqis from committing further aggression on Arab land. What the council is required to do now is to impose international will on the Iraqis and stop their acts of aggression once and for all. The council ought to dispatch U.N. forces to police the international borders between Iraq and Iran and take steps to bring the two parties to the negotiating table for achieving peace.

Sawt Al Shuah: Defending the nation

THE people and armed forces of Iraq are making history through their great sacrifice in defence of their nation and through blood and courageous feats in the face of the Iranian onslaught. We are proud of the great and heroic struggle of the Iraqi people who, we are sure, will once again achieve victory over the aggressors. Iraq is strong, its armed forces are powerful enough to defend Iraq and the whole frontier on the eastern flank of the Arab World. But since the Iraqis are continuously facing Iranian attacks that tend to destabilise world peace and security and threaten the whole region, the international community should take proper action to end this war and maintain peace in the Gulf region. It is a matter of time before the Iraqis will deal a devastating defeat on the Iraqis; and the Iranian troops will be killed by the thousand as the Tehran regime had wanted and as Iranian rulers planned.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Pursuing Camp David

ISRAELI Prime Minister Shimon Peres says he will inform the Palestinian people under Israeli rule of the negotiations that have been held between the PLO and Jordan and will urge them to stop supporting the PLO and decide on their future by themselves. With this, Peres hopes to draw a wedge between the Palestinian people living in the West Bank and those in the East Bank, and the PLO at the same time impose what he calls autonomy rule on the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This autonomy rule is an offshoot of the Camp David accords which were rejected by the Arab people in Jordan and Palestine. Therefore any talk about implementing the accords and the autonomy rule represent another block that obstructs peace efforts. Peres can never draw a wedge between the PLO and Jordan nor can he sow dissension in the ranks of the Palestinian people themselves. He cannot lure the Palestinians under Israel's rule away from their Arab nation and ensure permanent Zionist control over the occupied Arab land.

Al Dustour: American understanding

A statement by the U.S. State Department on Washington's understanding of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights is to be considered as a new development in America's attitude. This statement indicates that the U.S. was making efforts to meet the Arabs halfway and make constructive efforts towards the establishment of peace in our region. Any positive development in the U.S. stand, can mean a key for progressing towards the convening of an international conference. What is to be done now is an intensive effort to make Israel accept the idea of implementing U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The U.S. statement said that the two resolutions were not sufficient for resolving the Palestinian problem and this problem is more than a refugee problem. Such U.S. step, though coming late, should be considered as a real and positive development for breaking the deadlock in the peace efforts and an encouragement for the parties involved in the issue that wish to achieve peace.

Talking straight
Marwan Muasher

I WRITE to you from the United States, where I am currently on a tour to assess the impact of new technologies on U.S. industries and society.

Lots of changes have taken place since the last time I was here, about three years ago. I

imagine changes take place everywhere, but in a society as dynamic as that of the U.S., change is strikingly visible, is particularly exciting.

I guess I should start with the political front, an area where little change has taken place. The emphasis we place on events affecting us is nowhere to be felt here. Jordan and the PLO's peace efforts, the Iran-Iraq war, and Lebanon continue to receive little attention from the Americans. Even the New York Times mentions these news items briefly. The world, viewed from here, is a bit different.

The only place in the Middle East the U.S. obsessed with these days is Libya, and its war of words with Qadhafi. It is very interesting, and somewhat frightening, to watch how naively, and childishly, I might add, a superpower tries to deal with a serious problem. Terrorism is indeed a problem threatening the world at large; but the way the U.S. is dealing with it is certainly not the solution.

Almost daily, there is a news item about Qadhafi and the U.S. administration efforts to isolate him. One gets the feeling that the U.S. is more interested in portraying the Libyan leader as a villain, and itself

as a hero, than in any serious effort to deal with the problem. Three years after leaving it, I wonder how much America has learnt about the world.

The Palestinians continue to receive little attention, although I have noticed that Arab-American organisations are growing in number and activities. I cannot tell how strong their influence is, but I feel they are on the right track. I always thought the only way to talk to Americans is to address their way of thinking by people who understand them most — other Americans. It is thus that these organisations are successful, more so than any information centres any Arab government has tried to establish in the U.S. And as such these organisations should be supported by Arab countries. That is if we want our point of view to be effectively argued here. Let our governments provide the financial support, and let the work be done by those who can do it best — Arab-Americans.

From society's point of view, Americans, perhaps just as all other nations, continue to have their own interests. It is hard to believe sometimes that people living on the same planet, can be so diverse.

The different worries of dif-

ferent societies continue to baffle me. Take the debate, currently going on here, over the execution of a 25-year-old man for crimes he committed when he was 17, and whether juveniles under 18 should receive capital punishment. On the report on TV the other night about students at a particular university taking a course in "garbology," where they "study" garbage thrown by people to study their social habits.

These examples only drive home how basic our own problems are, and that it will take a long time before we even come close to discussing issues such as the above.

Coming back to new technologies, its impact is continuously being felt here, not in factories or laboratories, but more importantly in people's lives.

Thus, you can today call anywhere in the U.S. by phone from 35,000 ft up, sitting comfortably in your airplane seat. You can also enjoy information about the weather, sports, or a variety of subjects from computer machines on sidewalks! The thing that dazzled me most was going to a computer trade show and watching literally thousands of

people buying computers and their accessories the way one would buy vegetables in a supermarket or a shirt from a second-hand clothes market. The degree of awareness ordinary people have about technology is certainly impressive.

Another advancement in technology, one that will probably outmatch the computer revolution in importance, is taking place in what is called "bio-technology." A lot of research is going on in DNA, particularly the process of isolating and recombining genes. Scientists are able now to separate genes from living cells or to introduce new ones. And while they do not claim they will ever produce tailor-made human beings, whose characteristics are determined from thousands of genes, they will be able to do such things as diagnose diseases, put genes back in the living organism, transform human cells, and in the process cure diseases or produce new products useful to human beings. A whole new world of discoveries is being presently uncovered.

Technology, of course, can sometimes fail. I write this article as the tragedy of the seven Challenger astronauts continues to engulf people here.

and around the world. This tragic accident probably serves to remind us that there is always a price man has to pay for progress.

Indeed, all these new advancements have led to an array of moral questions on where our society is heading. Are we becoming overly dependent on computers? How is bio-technology going to affect the human race? Are many of our social values on their way out? The moral questions are a topic that I want to reserve for another article.

It seems evident that we are living at times reminiscent of the industrial revolution. People here are starting to talk about an information-based economy rather than an industry-based economy. The amount and quality of information made possible to man through technology, and the ability to handle this information effectively, has opened horizons never before possible. It is said that 90 per cent of all the knowledge of man has been acquired only in the last 30 years. Scientists predict that this knowledge will double in the next 30 years. The implications this has on our lives are overwhelming. We live indeed in exciting times.

Israel's Labour Party's morning-after feeling

By Roy Isaacowitz

The writer is political correspondent of the Jerusalem Post. This article appeared in the Feb. 11 issue of that newspaper.

TEL AVIV — Whatever the other results of Prime Minister Peres's recent visit to Europe, it had the unexpected side-effect of casting the Labour Party into profound depression. The buoyancy and self-confidence that marked Labour's first 15 months back in power have given way to pessimism and doubt, bordering in some instances, on despair.

Labour's most recent mood change was not as sudden as that of election night in July 1984, when, in the minute or two that it took for Israel TV to announce its voting forecast, the party plunged from unwarranted optimism to the depths of gloom.

This time, it took a couple of days for the full lack of significance of Peres's trip to sink in. The nocturnal meetings with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the pomp and ceremony in England, Holland and Germany; the drama of Ezer Weizman's visit to Cairo — all apparently came to very little. Britain voted against Israel in the Security Council vote on Al Aqsa Mosque and Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak have yet to hold a summer meeting.

Labour is once again in the grip of that election night depression. Only this time, it not only faces the prospect of a Likud-led government but also has to contend with the embarrassing knowledge that it had its moment of power and failed to make the most of it.

The depth of a depression, the psychologists say, is in direct correlation to the height of elation or expectation that precedes it. Peres's unflinching optimism misled his party. Had the prognoses emanating from the Prime Minister's office been a little less cheery, Labour's disappointment might not have been as great.

Peres didn't blunder, but he didn't succeed, either. He was expected to do more — and many of those expectations were created by him.

Peres was expected to open a process of peace talks with Jordan. He was expected to rejuvenate the economy on the basis of Labour's traditional concern for social justice. Above all, he was expected to find a way of preventing his Likud rival from returning to the premiership, that being the prime responsibility of any political leader.

If it is legitimate to attribute individual personality syndromes to political parties, then Labour could be described as a "depressive split-personality" when it

comes to rotation. There are those who believe that rotation will still be preempted, and who are concerned about the likely political fallout and the reaction of the electorate. Others believe that rotation is unavoidable and are depressed at the prospect of a Likud-led government. Very few people in Labour appear happy those days.

It would be wrong, however, to attribute the present gloom simply to rotation. Many Labour MKs are genuinely at a loss for answers to the country's enormous diplomatic and economic problems. It was easy, between 1980 and 1984, to blame the diplomatic wasteland on the Likud's incompetence and intransigence. Labour actually persuaded itself that it was the party of peace and that all that was needed was a somewhat more accommodating Labour-Israeli stance.

Events have proved otherwise. The Arabs, too, are intransigent, and there is apparently little chance of peace talks opening without exceptional Israeli concessions on the issue of Palestinian representation and the PLO. Making such concessions would not only bring down the present government — which Labour would welcome — but could also fragment the Labour Party. Hence the depression.

Labour does believe that, at the very least, a Labour-led Defence Ministry would implement a more humane form of occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. But not even Peres's talk of "improving the quality of life" has had much discernible influence on the security-minded Yitzhak Rabin. If anything, the security burden on the Arab residents has increased, with an upsurge in expulsions and administrative detentions.

As for socio-economic policy, the party's few remaining true socialists are aghast at the neoliberal strategy adopted by the Treasury with Peres's strong support. So long as the major economic portfolios remain in Likud hands, Labour socialists see no chance of unemployment coming down substantially or social welfare returning to its previous level.

As prime minister, Peres appears to have redeemed his public image, despite the constant sniping of the Likud and the Jordanian regime. But he has trapped himself in his statesman image. More than anything else, right now, his party wants him to be a politician to stymie the political aspirations of his opponents and to go out on a limb for his political and diplomatic objectives. And that he cannot do without shattering the image.



Deportation of Palestinians — an Israeli policy aiming to deny people their national leadership

By Ian Black

AT 11.30 on the morning of Feb. 5, somewhere among the barren rocks and thin scrubs of the southern Arava Desert, three Palestinians were ordered at gunpoint, to enter a gap in the security fence, take a path through a dried-up river bed into nomad-land and cross the border from Israel into Jordan.

It was the second time in less than a week that Israel has expelled people from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a period when the Government claims to be "improving the quality of life" for Palestinians under its rule.

There have now been some 25 deportations since the controversial policy was reintroduced last summer, and for the occupied Israel's stick looks far bigger than any carrot it is holding out.

Apart from the fact that such activity is banned under the Geneva Convention, critics of the policy argue it is the cruelest of all the measures Israel uses against the Palestinians. They add that if there is a real crime to answer, it should be dealt with by conventional judicial procedures.

About half of those expelled were released in last May's controversial exchange of 1,150 Arab prisoners for three Israeli soldiers captured in Lebanon.

That the numbers of deportees are small, and that the Israelis simply inherited the draconian emergency regulations in force under the British mandate has not blunted criticism either here or abroad.

"Surely it is necessary to explain why this is deviation from any norm of proper government," Mr. Danni Rubinstein, a leftwing Israeli journalist wrote this week.

"The deportation of nationals from their own land," says Law in the Service of Man, the Ramallah-based West Bank aff-

iliate of the International Commission of Jurists, "is an extreme and inhuman measure and is in violation of international and local law."

And Mr. Feisal Al Hussein, chairman of the Arab Studies Society argues: "This is one of the worst policies. We are in our homeland and a foreign power is trying to uproot us."

"They want our land without people — without us Palestinians," he says.

In purely numerical terms, Mr. Hussein may be overstating the case. But there is no denying the emotional and symbolic meaning given to forced expulsions for a people who are persona non grata wherever they go.

The authorities are not concerned by this.

"Our policy is not one of mass arrests and expulsions, but of precise work to find people in the middle echelons who have been planted in various organisations and try to pull the whole group in an extremist direction," says one senior army officer. "It is highly effective."

It is the Shin Bet internal security service, rather than the army, that is behind the policy.

The Shin Bet is the smallest, but the most powerful of all the Israeli bodies dealing with the occupied territories.

The high quality of its manpower and the fact that it is directly answerable to the Prime Minister means it usually gets its way.

There have been deportations ever since the 1967 war, but the policy, which has always attracted bitter international condemnation, went into abeyance under Likud rule in 1981.

It had not been used until last August, when it was reintroduced in response to pressure from Jew-

ish settlers in the West Bank who demanded a crackdown on Palestinian resistance activities.

The Labour Defence Minister Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, has had no qualms about it.

The deportations, like the 100 or so administrative detentions in the same period, have a clear ideological dimension: almost all those punished have been active on the radical wing of Palestinian politics, especially in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine or the Democratic Front.

Both Palestinians and Israelis believe the policy is intended to blunt opposition to Mr. Yasser Arafat's mainstream PLO.

Significantly, the only supporters of Mr. Arafat's Fatah organisation to have been dealt with the leftwingers.

The Israelis are aware the expulsions are a sensitive subject and try to maintain an impression of legality throughout the process.

But this may be getting harder. Three of the most recent deportees to have been forced across the border in the Arava — a dentist, a trade unionist and a journalist — decided to boycott the normal procedure of appeal to the High Court as the evidence against them, gathered by the Shin Bet, is classified, and never made public — The Guardian.

LETTERS

Filipino elections

To The Editor:

DUE to conflicting and sometimes distorted foreign press reports on the very recent presidential elections in the Philippines on Feb. 7, I have the honour to present the following:

— The recent elections compared to 10 previous Philippine presidential elections was relatively peaceful, orderly and democratic. Alleged incidents of fraud and cheating were generally isolated. There were more than 86,000 polling places and reported incidents occurred in less than 50 polling places of the total number of precincts.

— The reported delay in the tabulation of results by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) was due to the failure of NAMFREL (National Movement for Free Elections) couriers to provide COMELEC simultaneously with precinct tally forms as required by signed agreement between the Constitutional Body (COMELEC) and its duly accredited citizen arm (NAMFREL).

— Under the Constitution, the Batasan Pambansa (Parliament) is the sole body to officially canvass and proclaim the elected president and vice president. The Batasan convened on Feb. 10 and appointed a committee headed by Speaker Nicanor Yñiguez, and composed of representatives of the ruling party and the opposition.

President Marcos is represented by Deputy Presidential Assistant Joaquin Venus while Mrs. Aquino is being represented by Atty. Joker Arroyo.

The Batasan reconvened again on Feb. 11 to start the tally. (This Constitutional procedure is similar to that of the United States of America where the American electorate elects members of the Presidential Electoral College in November; the Electoral College in turn elects the President in December, and the U.S. Congress House of Representatives convenes in January to canvass and proclaim the elected U.S. President and vice president. While in France in the 1974 and 1981 Presidential elections, Council Constitutionale took at least five days from the end of the second round of voting to proclaim Presidential-elect Giscard d'Estaing and Francois Mitterrand respectively.)

— There is absolutely no basis for alarming reports of civil strife or civil war. The Armed Forces and National Police of the Philippines are fully capable of maintaining public peace and order under the policy of "maximum tolerance" as ordered by President Marcos.

May I please request publication of this in order to assure our Jordanian and other friends, as well as the Filipino workers here in Jordan, that the Philippines is not in danger of having a civil war.

Emmanuel J. Contreras
Charge d'Affaires
Embassy of the Philippines
Amman

S. African turmoil enters 3rd year

By Victor Mallet
Reuter

CAPE TOWN — In the troubled South Africa of today, as the upheaval in black townships enters its third year, the killing of one black schoolgirl in a protest barely rates a mention in local newspapers.

Only mass killings raise eyebrows, a sign that South African attitudes have hardened markedly since the present phase of protests began two years ago.

Yet the death of 15-year-old Emma Satheke at a school near Pretoria on Feb. 13, 1984, was then a remarkable event that ushered in the worst — and so far unfinished — period of political

violence in South Africa's modern history.

She was run over by a police vehicle in Ateridgeville township, where police were using tear gas to disperse demonstrating children who demanded an end to corporal punishment and more pupil representation at schools.

Since that day the demands of protesters have progressively hardened to include immediate political power for blacks and the scrapping of apartheid racial segregation policies.

More than 1,100 people have died, about double the number killed in the 1976 protests, and the bloodshed continues daily.

Most victims are black and most have been shot by the security for-

ces. Others have been killed by crowds accusing them of collaborating with the white government, or have died in political fights between radicals and conservatives.

"The present revolt is not going to come to an end," says Frank Chikane, the deputy president of the Soweto Civic Association. "Either the regime changes or we are going to lose a lot of lives."

Chikane, 34, is a priest of the Apostolic faith mission and a former official of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF). Last year he was tried for treason with other UDF activists but the government dropped some of the charges and he and 11 of the others were freed.

He described the 1976 protests mainly as a sporadic series of protests against inferior education for blacks.

"The unrest in the townships over the last two years is completely different," he told Reuters. "This particular unrest, which I prefer to call revolt, shows that people have decided that they are no longer going to be governed by the apartheid regime."

Opponents of the government cite several reasons why they regard the present protests as more serious than those of 1976.

What has happened in the last two years is that the brutality of the system has made the parents take sides with their children," said Chikane.

Channel 6 preview

1956 and all that

By J.H. Boteler

As promised I am back in my usual spot, with news of a new drama series and a new comedy, which, traditionally, will be dealt with first.

Comedies

Disaster falls on poor fun-loving Giovanni tonight in *Mind Your Language* when his widowed mother arrives in London and puts a dampener on her boy's usual life-style. Solution: marry off 'Aaaa. To whom, though? It would be nice if the chosen victim could be Mr. Henshaw, the disgusting junior, but odds are that it will be Mr. Brown. The Cabbage Patch, (tomorrow, Sunday), is continuing to develop very nicely, last week weak-willed Tony even supported his wife against her domineering mother. This week it's the turn of Amanda, his poisonous secretary, to get her comeuppance. While Janet is working, Tony is home in bed and Jill, not being mad to feel any better by visiting neighbours. His temperamental really rises when he discovers that Amanda has clinched a business deal off her own bat, and has quoted the wrong figures to the client. Sounds like a case of tears before bedtime all round. There are more comic sketches from Carol Burnett and Friends on Monday, whilst on Tuesday Ida has to take charge in *That's My Boy* when Robert and Angie argue about their roles as godparents. Janet is bound to be highly embarrassed on Wednesday when she is reduced to asking Jack to escort her to a party in *Three's Company*, whilst on Friday Mr. Belvedere has to help out when Kevin ends up in jail, having been egged on by his girlfriend to demonstrate on behalf of animal rights at the local furriers. Which leaves us with Thursday and a new series: *Good Night And God Bless*. This stars Donald Churchill and Judy Lee, who was the heroine in the recent drama "Missing From Home." Ronnie Kemp is a stand-up comic who hosts a long-running but fairly abysmal television show called "Keeping Up With The Jones's." He is also very mean — constantly reneging on the alimony payments to his ex-wife — and also constantly being unfaithful to his present wife Celia (Judy Lee). Her one consolation is that Ronnie maintains her father. In the first episode there is a bit of a misunderstanding when Ronnie is ordered to find some new and cleaner material for his show.

Documentaries

Let's deal with the pleasant ones first and get them out of the way. "An actress is someone who when she commits suicide ... looks in the mirror so she'll know how to play a suicide if she ever has to." This merry quip comes from Ellen Burstyn, tonight's guest in *Starring The Actors*. Film-clips from her career include "The Exorcist," "The Last Picture Show" and "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore." Wednesday has the third part of the intriguing and interesting *Ancient Lives*, which this week examines the lives of the women of the village, including childbirth, the love poetry they wrote, and the surprising level of freedom and independence they enjoyed. Also included is the great temple of Karnak, dreams, oracles and medicine.

Which brings us to Sunday and that fun-filled programme of jolly japes, *End Of Empire*. Wasn't last week fun? Ok, so perhaps *Mossadegh* was a bit too impractical and over ambitious, but the cause of the ultimate damage to British interests in Iran was not the idealistic doctor but their own blind obstinacy and insatiable greed. This was best demonstrated by the self-assured gentleman who dispatched Mossadegh as a screwball who always wore pyjamas. (funny enough someone else described him as always being immaculately dressed), and blithely dismissed Iranian claims to the oil revenues with words somewhat along the lines of: "It was our concession; why should we give them anything?" Er, yes, quite. A man who obviously considers his Christian duty as being fulfilled by going to church on Sunday and falling asleep during the sermon. It would be comforting to dismiss him as a buffoon, were it not for the ever-present glimmer of cold calculation displayed in his eyes. If he came to dinner he would probably steal the silver. Not of course that this week offers any cause for British celebration, dealing as it does with Egypt and the Suez fiasco. (Don't forget the English subtitles, FTV). It should be noted that of special interest to Jordan is that the speakers include His Majesty King Hussein and Ali Abu Nuwar, commander of the Jordanian army.

The British presence in Egypt was never a happy one, not since the days of Lord Cromer's particular brand of autocratic rule. However Egypt, and in particular Suez, were vital to Britain as a military base, and especially so during the second world war. By the 1950's local nationalist resentment became militant and highly organised, taking the form of sniper attacks and bombings. The British response was to raze the village of Kafr Abdou to the ground and to reduce the police garrison at Ismailia to rubble. The emergence of Nasser in 1952 further intensified the pressure on Britain until their military bases in Egypt almost imperceptibly withdrew in 1956. But only to lick their wounds and to plot revenge. The chance came the same year, when America suddenly withdrew its promise of economic aid in the building of the Aswan high dam. Nasser promptly retaliated by nationalising the Suez canal. Although it had cost 120,000 Egyptian lives to build, only five per cent of the shares in the canal were held by Egypt, the rest being largely owned by Britain and France. For Nasser nationalisation had the dual benefits of a blow against the West and, more importantly, financing for Aswan through the canal revenues. What happened next was one of the diplomatic masterstrokes of all time. For months wiser heads in the British government, among them Harold Macmillan, had been urging the British prime minister, Sir Anthony Eden, not to act hastily and resort to force, but, with the 'doves' removed from office, Eden's way was clear. Britain and France entered into a secret agreement with Israel and on October 29th, Israel invaded Sinai. The two superpowers, who earlier had conveniently overlooked the fact that Nasser had offered full financial compensation to them for the nationalisation of the canal, in high moral tones issued a joint ultimatum calling on Egypt and Israel to cease fighting and to withdraw their forces ten miles from the canal, failing which Anglo-French forces would "intervene with whatever strength may be necessary to ensure compliance." Israel, whose forces were nowhere near the canal at that time, and whose "withdrawal," would thus entail a massive advance, accepted the ultimatum; Nasser, who by the terms of the ultimatum would have to voluntarily abandon territory he had not yet lost, rejected it. Accordingly, Britain and France sent in the bombers and then the troops. This invoked world-wide condemnation, especially from America, whose threat to withhold aid from Britain brought about a very hasty and ignominious retreat. The fallout was cataclysmic. British prestige in the Arab world fell dramatically; it lost its Suez canal military base; all of the remaining British property and interests in Egypt were nationalised; it meant the end of Eden and, in Jordan, of Sir John Glubb. Quelle triomphe.

Detectives and drama

The scene: women's prison, "somewhere in America"; the time: now. Tensions are rising, feelings are high. Suddenly, the prison doctor is found dead, and the prisoners erupt in a fearsome and bloody riot. A nation trembles, the economy falters. Is this the end of civilisation as we know it? No, mankind is safe for here, swinging her handbag, brandishing her broom and wittering away brightly at everyone, comes Aunt Jessica. Yes, I'm afraid so, build it up as I might, the sad fact remains that *Murder, She Wrote* returns on Tuesday night. Funnily, "Magnum" it was fun while it lasted. Fun is in short supply in *Dempsey And Makepeace*, (singularly inappropriate name that), who on Sunday have another go at reducing sleepy London streets to a flaming ruin. Meanwhile, on Friday, Hunter — the auto-salesman's friend — embarks on another of his "wrecker-derbies" as he hunts down an ex-con who is going around town bumping off all the jewellers.

In the drama stakes Tuesday has *A Fortunate Life*, in which Bert — still reasonably curly-haired but decidedly more taciturn and dour than in his carefree youth — travels around Australia with a boxing troupe and dumps numerous overweight individuals on the canvas. However, Lady Luck, his ever faithful companion, has saved up a real beauty for our Bert. It's the first world war, and the Gallipoli campaign. Sea, sun, sand and travel: what a lucky man is Bert. As for Kane And Abel, (Friday), this is hotting up nicely. A chance meeting at the Plaza hotel, (Abel finds himself waiting on Kane), is the starting point of prosperity for both protagonists. Kane has been elected to the board of the family firm, and Abel is hired by Leroy as assistant manager of the Chicago hotel. Abel makes great strides in the hotel business and all is looking rosy until his hopes are dashed by the Wall Street crash of 1929. Unfortunately, Kane is instrumental in bankrupting Abel, who swears a terrible revenge. In between times both men fall in love, with rather different results. Which leaves us to deal with the new series for Monday night, but there are slight problems here. It should be the continuing adventures of ex-detective, ex-con, Lomax, the hero of *Travelling Man*, in which he stalks the waterways of England searching for both his son and the naughty men who framed him on a drugs charge and got him put away for two years. But, as I said, there is a problem. As you may remember, the first series was, shall we say, somewhat on the violent side. (Among its lighter moments were a junkie injecting himself in her big toe and some poor woman getting drenched in petrol and set on fire. Really cheery). It appears though that in the second series Lomax has decided "no more Mr. Nice Guy." Seasoned programme veterans at ITV, hardened individuals long immune to the sicker depravities from the seamy side of TV, have been seen staggering along corridors, green at the gills and sweating profusely. I mean, it sounds more than probable that this particular batch of "Laughtime with



I have heard of stand-up comics, but this is ridiculous. Good night and God Bless. Thursday at 8:30.

Lomax" will be buried in much the same fashion as nuclear waste is. If that is the case, then it will be replaced by more of the excellent series of *American Short Story*. Or maybe by something else. It's all a bit iffy, so it would be best to proceed to the sure things of life, the startlingly realistic world of:

Soaps

In *Dallas*, on Monday, there is some good news and some bad news. The trouble is that for the life of me I can't work out which is which. Item one: Bobby and Pamela embark on a reconciliation. (You see my problem? Is this a case of international rejoicing? Without doubt a very deep and contented philosophical problem.) Item two: Sue Ellen, having failed to recover from the excesses she indulged in last week, remains totally inebriated, goes weaving around town in a car, and

has an accident. (What is the correct response to this? To lie awake at night, chewing one's fingernails and worrying about Sue Ellen's wellbeing, or jump up and down in joy at the probable damage this will do to JR's bid for political office? Problems, problems.) Not, of course, that life is any the easier for Julia, suffering untold torment in jail in *Falcon Crest* (Wednesday). In desperation she attempts to bribe the guards, which will doubtless have disastrous consequences. As for Stephanie, the poor (correction: striking rich), embattled heroine of *Return To Eden*, (Thursday), she has been put off having holidays in no uncertain fashion, and returns home to sort out the mess that her company is in. Her worries over what has happened to her husband Dan, still missing after the big bang, is not helped by unpleasant revelations concerning her daughter's proposed wedding.

Feature films

Thursday's offering is called *Calamity Jane And Sam Bass*, which you will not be surprised to learn is a western. A cowboy is peacefully enjoying himself by betting on the gee-goes when someone poisons his horse. "Vingie" he sauris, and promptly robs a bank. Not exactly what you would call a normal or even a sane response, but I suppose you could charitably put it down to the pioneer spirit. Tonight has *Valley Of Mystery*, a stirring yarn about an aeroplane that crashes in the inhospitable Brazilian jungle and, to quote from the blurb, "the exciting adventures that follow the accident." What can this mean? Encounters with fearsome jungle predators? Poisonous insects? Head-bunting tribesmen? Cannibalism among the survivors? The duty-free supplies running out? Only time will tell.

British lawyers launch battle against government

By Ronald Thomson
Reuter

LONDON — Lawyers pleading poverty?

The mind boggles at the question as England's top attorneys vow to go to court in an unprecedented legal battle against the Conservative government's highest mandarin of law.

Barristers, the elite of the profession, are threatening to cast off their powdered wigs and sue Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Lord Chancellor for rejecting their claim for much more money to handle state-funded criminal prosecutions.

"We are depressed, fearful, anxious, frustrated and downright angry about the unwillingness of the government to play fair," said Robert Alexander, chairman of the Bar Council.

Britons have long seen lawyers as fat-cats — but a recent survey commissioned by the council from independent management consultants gives a different picture.

The council, representing top lawyers and judges, said a young barrister engaged in publicly-funded prosecutions could be earning as little as £6,145 (\$8,600) a year.

Barristers over 37 might pick up £13,350 (\$18,700) — still a fraction of the income enjoyed by government lawyers or attorneys in private practice.

Lawyers in the highest-paying brackets of the profession, such as senior defence counsel in major trials at London's Old Bailey criminal court, can receive huge sums in excess of £200,000 (\$280,000) annually.

On the basis of the independent survey, barristers demanded an increase of between 30 and 40 per cent on the fees they receive as advocates for defendants awarded legal aid on grounds of inability to pay court costs.

Lord Hailsham, once a renowned lawyer and now Lord Chancellor with power to adjudicate over the legal system in England

and Wales, offered only five per cent — a few points below the inflation rate.

His ruling set off uproar as 1,500 barristers meeting in London last weekend passed resolutions demanding "reasonable fees" for their work on criminal cases.

Britain's daily business newspaper, the Financial Times, said there was no doubt the barristers, almost a fifth of the entire legal profession, were united.

It reported few signs of poverty at the meeting, although a young Chinese member of the profession dramatically drew attention to his plight by introducing himself to the audience as a part-time waiter.

The barristers voted to refuse criminal prosecution briefs from April 1 unless "fair remuneration" was agreed.

And they authorised the council to apply to the high court on Feb. 14, for permission to stage what amounts to a strike.

In legal terms, the application calls for leave to challenge the government's stand and charges that Hailsham has "ignored and fobbed off" the profession, breaching his statutory duties.

Chairman Alexander said it was the first time in living memory that the Bar Council had felt the need to take legal action against the government.

Barristers in Britain are the only lawyers allowed to argue cases before judges. Solicitors, who make up the bulk of the profession, usually advise clients and instruct barristers on their behalf.

If a judicial review is granted by the high court, the barristers' case would be put by a top lawyer who has represented black anti-apartheid campaigner Winnie Mandela in South African courts.

Sidney Kenridge, a member of the British and South African bars, spoke for the wife of imprisoned black leader Nelson Mandela last month when she was charged with breaking a government banning order.

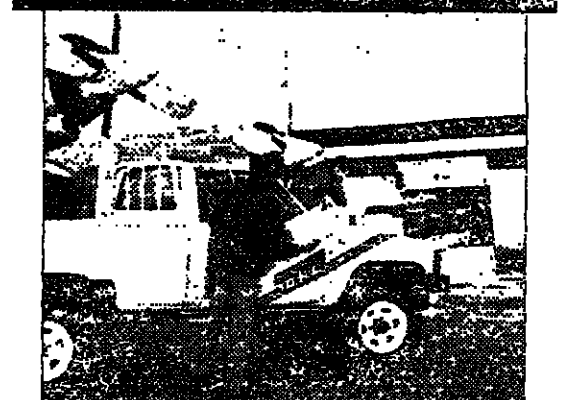
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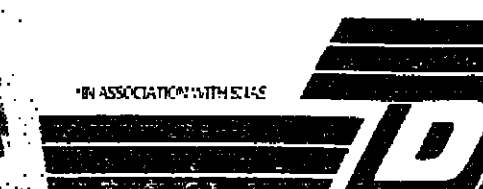
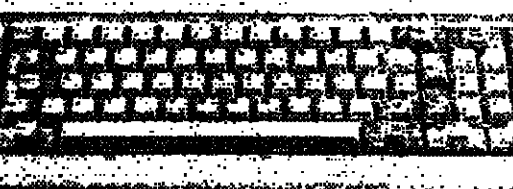
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Louvre to open entire collection

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — Visitors to the Louvre museum have long been frustrated by the number of closed exhibition rooms, but French Culture Minister Jack Lang says those days are ending.

"From now on all the exhibition rooms of the Louvre will be open to the public, six days out of seven," Lang said at the end of January as he unveiled the renovated Greek and Roman antiquities sections of the centuries-old museum.

The renovations are part of a 200-million franc (\$27-million)

plan to modernise the Louvre, a former palace that experts say is ill-equipped to handle its impressive collections of painting and sculpture.

"The Louvre has not been open in its entirety for at least a century, perhaps in its entire history," Lang told reporters. "I'm happy to report that at a time when budgets are being cut, we have been able to get funds to pay 75 additional full-time museum guards, and a few more part-time."

Lang also announced the creation of a video data bank on the Louvre and its treasures and a new, multi-lingual sign system to direct visitors through the mus-

seum's 225 galleries to main attractions such as the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo. The system will start operating in April.

Other improvements include the opening of an L-shaped restaurant in the Pavillon de Mollien on the second floor overlooking the Napoleon courtyard, where the museum's new entrance, now being built, will be capped by a tall glass pyramid.

"It's important to think about making the Louvre comfortable for its visitors," Lang said. "The cafeteria featuring typical French fare will be a haven of peace and quiet, a chance for tourists to rest while they tour the Louvre."

Draw makes French defence of European Championship difficult

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — Reigning champions France were given no favours when the qualifying draw for the 1988 European Championship Soccer Finals in West Germany was made Friday.

In contrast to the World Cup, the title-holders have to qualify for the finals and France, winners on home soil two years ago, found themselves in the toughest group. Their main opponents in Group Three are the Soviet Union, one of Europe's strongest sides, and rapidly improving East Germany. But there are also potentially awkward trips to the colder climes of Norway and Iceland.

World champions Italy also face a difficult assignment in Group Two where they meet Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Malta. Italy's poor performance in the qualifiers for the 1984 championship had left them seeded in one of the weakest pools, giving them every risk of ending in a tough group.

England, one of the top-seeded nations, will not have too many fears after finding themselves in almost a repeat of the section they won to qualify for this summer's Mexico World Cup Finals. Northern Ireland and Turkey are again their opponents, Yugoslavia completing Group Four.

Group Seven throws together three nations who have qualified

for Mexico in Belgium, Bulgaria and Scotland. Ireland and Luxembourg are also included.

Denmark and Spain, who clashed in the 1984 European Championship semifinals where the Spaniards won on penalties to reach the final, both look to be favoured.

The Danes have relatively weak opposition in Wales, Czechoslovakia and Finland in Group Six, while Spain should qualify from Group One against Romania, Austria and Albania.

Hungary, Poland and The Netherlands should contest the top spot in Group Five with Greece and Cyprus trying to spoil things as far as possible.

West Germany get a bye into the finals as hosts and will be joined by the Seven Group winners. The draw threw together a number of teams who have just met in the World Cup qualifiers. Portugal must play Sweden and the Dutch, Hungarians and Cypriots have all landed in the same section once more.

France too must meet East Germany again, fresh from the unhappy memories of their 2-0

defeat in Leipzig last September, a result which seriously threatened their chances of reaching the Mexico Finals.

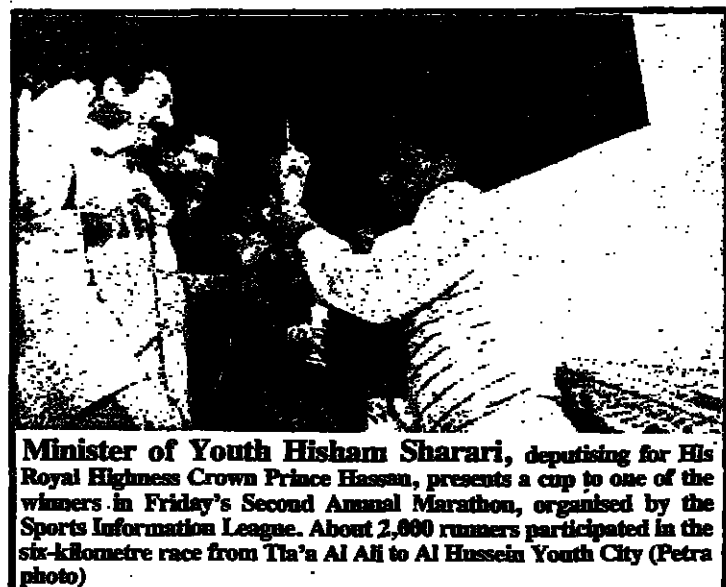
French trainer Henri Michel said: "Our group's the strongest, of course, with the Soviet Union and East Germany being the hardest opponents."

"You have to accept the draw as it comes," Michel added. "Even Iceland will not be easy. I'm optimistic, though we will know better where we stand after Mexico." Federico Sordillo, president of the Italian federation, said: "It was a lucky draw for us. Italy are favourites in Group Two. Portugal will be the main rivals but they are not as strong as they were in Eusebio's days."

Dutch trainer Leo Beenhakker also said the Eastern Europeans in his group would make it tough. "We always have problems coping with their tactics," he said. "But Group Three is the strongest even if the best football can be expected in Group Two."

West German manager Franz Beckenbauer, able to look on dispassionately as his team was not included in the draw, assessed Group Three as the most difficult.

The draw was made by two 10-year-olds, Marcel Katzenmeier and Barbara Mueller, in the Mozart Salon of Frankfurt's Old Opera House.



IOC proposals herald end of amateur Olympics

LONDON (R) — The last bastions of 19th century Olympic idealism look ready to crumble with the Games set to be thrown open to the millionaire stars of professional sport from 1988.

The Olympic authorities' new-found determination to face up to the commercial realities of modern sport will remove the remaining vestiges of the strict amateur code imposed on the modern Olympic movement 90 years ago by its founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin of France.

The plan to open up the Games to all athletes, including professionals, announced on Tuesday by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), represents the most fundamental change undertaken since the modern Games began in 1896.

Under the new regulations, the world's highest paid sports personalities — such as Argentine World Cup soccer striker Diego Maradona, Canadian ice hockey star Wayne Gretzky and leading tennis player Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia — would be eligible to participate in the Summer and Winter Games.

The revised rules would remove the existing anomalies which have led to some top competitors being banned for professionalism while others have been allowed to compete despite their high earnings.

Ironically, the first major casualty of the rigid amateur code was also the first genuine Olympic superstar to emerge.

Jim Thorpe, an American Indian who won the pentathlon and decathlon at the 1912 Stockholm Games, forfeited his gold medals the following year when he was declared a professional because he was paid \$60 for playing baseball. Thorpe's medals were restored to his family 70 years later.

After decades of under-the-counter payments to athletes, (the days of so-called "shamateurism") and the banning of other prominent names from Olympic participation, the rules of the international federations governing the various Olympic sports were eventually made more flexible to allow competitors to accept appearance or prize money outside the Games.

But the double standards remained, so that while Swedish ski

Talented Scots hope to defy logic

By Robert Philip
Reuter

LONDON — To that uniquely whimsical character known as the Scottish football supporter, Scotland's saga of World Cup tragedies is a rich source of morbid relish.

Such a whimsical attitude is not the monopoly of the tartan-bedecked fan. The national team can be equally quirky, a trait which has infuriated successive managers while greeted with affectionate tolerance on the terraces.

Mexico will mark Scotland's fourth successive World Cup appearance but, for once, not one of the nation's five million inhabitants seriously expects the team to return home with the trophy.

Logically, Scotland should have no hope of surviving a first phase group which includes West Germany, Denmark and Uruguay. Logic, however, is not a word which features in the Scottish football dictionary and Alex Ferguson's talented squad may prosper in their unaccustomed garb of down-and-outs.

Scotland's 1974, 1978 and 1982 campaigns ended in cruel disillusionment, an outcome Ferguson is determined to avoid out of respect for his predecessor Jock Stein, who died from a heart attack after the final European Group Seven qualifying tie in Wales last November.

The Scots plotted a typically roundabout route to Mexico via Australia — whom they beat 2-0 on aggregate over two legs — after finishing runners-up to Spain in their four-nation qualifying group.

That bizarre antipodean episode behind them, Scotland, who

have produced such all-time greats as Denis Law, Jim Baxter and Kenny Dalglish in recent years, may just shatter their "keystone kops" image in Mexico.

That will be no easy matter, however, because Scotland's infatuation with the self-destruct button has been ludicrous at times, most notably under Ally MacLeod in Argentina in 1978.

Embarrassed by an ageing Peru, held to a draw by Iran, the Scots proceeded to beat The Netherlands, the eventual runners-up, and go agonisingly close to qualifying for the second phase at a time when they had all but packed their suitcases for the homeward journey.

Even that humiliation was met with philosophical resignation back in Scotland where the most popular joke was that Mickey Mouse had been given an "ally MacLeod watch" for his birthday.

But the arrival of Stein — and latterly Ferguson — did much to restore Scotland's standing in the sport, although the 11 dark blue shirts never look quite as intimidating in reality as the names do on paper.

Ferguson has transformed Aberdeen, who won the Cup-Winners' and Super-Cup in 1983, into a major force in Europe and he has continued Stein's policy of trying to create a club-like atmosphere in the Scotland camp.

Scottish squads of the past have often been comprised of two factions — home-based players and the better-paid anglers from England.

But the recent successes of Aberdeen and Dundee United in Europe have brought an end to any inferiority complex felt in Scotland and those two clubs now provide the entire Scottish back division.

In Jim Leighton, Scotland have finally found a goalkeeper who does not suddenly become a juggler in front of a large audience, while his Aberdeen colleagues Willie Miller, the most polished sweeper in Britain, and Alex McLeish have an almost telepathic understanding in the heart of defence.

Dundee United's youthful full backs, Richard Gough and Maurice Malpas, should also make a big impact in Mexico. Both are tenacious tacklers with a penchant for attack.

Scotland's midfield is built round Italian exile Graeme Souness, formerly with Liverpool but now a major influence at Sampdoria.

Much has been made of the fact Scotland will have to alter their renowned "cavalry charge" tactics in the high altitude of Mexico City.

But with the elegant and unburied Souness, who gives the impression he could play in top hat, white tie and tails, dictating the tempo, Scotland should have little difficulty in adapting to the climatic conditions.

Ferguson has various midfield permutations at his disposal and Glasgow Celtic's Paul McStay, Aberdeen's Jim Bett, Manchester United's Gordon Strachan and Dalglish will all have roles to play.

Up front much depends on the mercurial Charlie Nicholas. The Arsenal striker has had a troubled career in England since his move from Celtic two seasons ago but he has rediscovered his old magic in recent months.

Nicholas, a free-kick specialist, is likely to be partnered by West Ham's prolific goal-scorer Frank McAvennie and Glasgow Rangers' dynamic winger David Cooper.

McAvennie anxious to end goal slump

LONDON (R) — Sharp-shooter Frank McAvennie is anxious to re-assess himself as one of the deadliest marksmen in English soccer when West Ham take on holders Manchester United in the Football Association Cup Saturday.

With 21 goals this season, the young Scot, unheralded before he came south last year to play for London club West Ham, had forced himself into Scotland's World Cup team. But his flow of goals has suddenly dried up with only one in his last nine games.

West Ham manager John Lyall refuses to be rattled by McAvennie's slump. "He could not go on scoring at the rate he was," said Lyall. "It was inevitable that he would slow down but I am not worried. His overall play has been excellent and he has been making some of the goals Tony Cottee has

been scoring."

Seven fifth-round matches are due to be played in the FA Cup Saturday with the eighth, Tottenham Hotspur against league champions Everton, scheduled for Sunday. But with Britain in the grip of freezing weather, postponements seem likely.

Brighton, the ambitious second-division club who reached the Cup final in 1983, are confident they can clinch a place in the last eight by disposing of fourth-division Peterborough.

Peterborough have already knocked second-division Carlisle out of the competition but Brighton manager Chris Cattlin feels his team can go all the way to another final at Wembley.

"If we play to our top form there is no reason why we shouldn't go all the way," Cattlin said. "Peterborough will be eager to

dispose of another second division side but we are in great heart and ready to shatter their dream."

"The pitch conditions may suit his side more than us but I expect us to give them a lesson."

While Brighton hope to recall striker Justin Fashanu and experienced midfielder Dennis Mortimer, Peterborough are no so fortunate. Their manager John Wile, only three weeks away from his 39th birthday, may be forced to include himself because of an injury list that includes club captain Trevor Quow and striker Jack Gallagher.

Third-division York, beaten in their last three league games, hope to bring in full-back Alan Hay for the visit of former European champions Liverpool, who may be strengthened by the return of Steve McMahon, Paul Walsh and Gary Gillespie after injury.

Connors struggles to 2nd round win

BOCA RATON, Florida (R) — Jimmy Connors, at one time only two points from defeat, took three hours Thursday to overcome unheralded Claudio Panatta of Italy in the \$1.8 million International Players Championships.

In other second round matches top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia beat Christo Van Rensburg of South Africa 6-4, 6-1

and American Brad Gilbert, seeded 13th, beat Ronald Agener of Haiti 6-2, 7-5.

"I don't mind pressure," the 33-year-old Connors, fourth-ranked in the world, said after he prevailed over Panatta, 91st in the world rankings, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) in a second round match.

"But I don't like getting myself into that kind of situation to bring on the pressure," he added. "I played the wrong kind of tennis for me and that doesn't make me a happy guy. But at 5-2 in the third set I played my best tennis."

Panatta led 5-2 in the third set and then was serving at 5-3, 30-15, but couldn't contend with the determined, more experienced Connors.

Earlier three highly seeded Swedes, Mats Wilander, Stefan Edberg and Joakim Nystrom, also

won second round matches and top seeded Chris Evert Lloyd, overcoming the lingering effects of flu and a "slow" court, defeated Marie Cailleja of France in a second round women's match.

"I'm feeling better now," Lloyd, ranked second in the world, said after winning. Lloyd had played her opening match on Tuesday while still shaky from the flu which had her out of action for a few days prior to this tournament.

Wilander, seeded second among the men, eased past Derrick Dye of Australia 6-4, 6-2 while Edberg, seeded fifth, eliminated Matt Doyle of Ireland, a losing qualifier who was picked to fill a hole in the draw, 6-3, 6-4. Nystrom, seeded tenth, beat American Vince Van Patten 6-2, 6-0.

Australia III conquers heavy seas

FREMANTLE, Australia (R) — Australia III mastered a turbulent Indian Ocean which threatened to wreck lesser yachts to claim its second victory in the 12-metre Yachting World Championship Thursday.

In a heavy swell and winds top-

ping 18 knots the new yacht from the America's Cup-winning syndicate of Alan Bond led from the start to beat French Kiss and New Zealand KZ 5.

Australia III covered the 25-nautical mile course in three hours 13 minutes 41 seconds, a fine per-

formance considering the weather which elsewhere in the fleet tore spinners, washed crewmen overboard and cost one yacht its mast.

The Australian winner, which crossed the line 1.05 minutes ahead of French Kiss, had led the French yacht at halfway with Canada's True North and New Zealand KZ 5 in close pursuit.

New Zealand KZ 5 pulled into third place before engaging in a tacking duel for second place, leaving Australia III to race on alone. True North crossed the line fourth.

Australia III leads overall from New Zealand KZ 5, Australia II, America II and French Kiss ahead of the last two races this weekend.

Italia broadcast a Mayday call on the first leg when it lost a crewman overboard. He was rescued by an official boat, forcing Italia to retire.

New Zealand KZ 3 and America II also lost a crewman each, but they were both able to turn and pull the men out of the two-metre swell.

The 12-metre champion, Italy's Victory '83, was racing in the middle of the 14-yacht fleet when its 30-metre mast snapped, sending sails crashing to the deck and into the sea. Italia, America II and French Kiss all blew spinners.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Results of basketball games played 11-14 February

Juniors

Jordan Express 24
International Traders 29

Mids

Marriott 41
Near East Equipment 46
Volvo 34
Astra 35
Marriott 48
Volvo 35

Seniors

Joliff 47
Cairo-Amman 49
Cairo-Amman 63
Cairo-Amman 61
Joliff 50

Lego 16
Istiklal Library 26

Mids

Astra 14
Peugeot 29
Intercon 18
Intercon 34 (OT)
Near East Equipment 16
Peugeot 16

Seniors

Sakura 42
Al Ahlyah 33
Joliff 59
Sakura 57 (OT)
Al Ahlyah 42

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No. (3F/86)

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The closing date for submission tenders is 12:00 hours local time Saturday 15th March 1986.

Wasel Azar
Managing Director



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Cinema
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THE LAST DRAGON

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

Cinema
RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

THE STEEL FIST

(Colour)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

Cinema
OPERA

Admission behind Alia office

Tel: 675573

FLIGHT 90 DISASTER ON THE POTOMAC

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4175/85	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3940/50	Canadian dollars
	2.3885/95	West German marks
	2.6635/50	Dutch guilders
	1.9580/90	Swiss francs
	48.18/23	Belgian francs
	7.2400/50	French francs
	1607/1608	Italian lire
	182.50/70	Japanese yen
	7.4400/50	Swedish crowns
	7.3450/55	Norwegian crowns
	8.6950/7850	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	330.10/60	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mixed but with a firmer bias to moderate trading, with both F.T. 30 and FTSE 100 indices at record highs, dealers said. At 1537 Friday the F.T. 30 index was 6.1 up at 1,218.6 and the FTSE 100 index 4.1 higher at 1,477.6. Wellcome made its debut Friday, opening at a 40p premium at 160, closing unchanged after 157. Distillers closed 10p higher at 620 after earlier news the bid from Guinness, 10p off at 291, has been referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Government bonds steadied to show gains ranging to 7.16 point. Banks were mixed, insurances were easier. Leading industrials were firmer. ICI was 5p up at 857 with Glaxo 10p firmer at 895 and Beecham 11p higher at 371. Tate and Lyle added 15p to 588.

Among the bid situation Stocks Argyll, first bidder for Distillers, gained 12p to 353. Imperial Group ended one penny up at 291 while Sir Hanson lost 2p to 151.

United Biscuits rose 6p to 242 on bid speculation. Dealers said. Its proposed merger with Imperial Group was recently referred. Rowntree Mackintosh advanced 18p to 453 on speculative interest.

Prominent funds agree to invest in Third World

BRUSSELS (R) — Managers of some of the West's largest investment portfolios have agreed to take stakes in a fund which will invest only in companies quoted on Third World stock exchanges.

They will take the lion's share of a \$50 million fund being set up for this purpose by a World Bank agency, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), its executive vice president Sir William Rytic told journalists here Thursday.

He said investment by the fund could provide valuable finance for the economies of Third World countries and could also prove profitable for investors.

"We believe the records of a number of shares over the last 10 years show good returns in dollar terms can be earned," he added.

Jordan to be considered

Countries which fund managers were likely to consider included Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, the Philippines, India, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil and Jordan.

The IFC set up a similar \$60 million fund for investment in South Korea in 1984. It has prospered and is about to double its capital.

Swiss banker forecasts end to Eurobond boom

ZURICH (R) — The amount of money raised on the booming Eurobond market will grow little or even fall in 1986 after years of extraordinary growth, a vice president of top issuing house Credit Suisse-First Boston (CSFB) forecast Thursday.

A total of \$135 billion worth of bonds was issued last year compared with a mere \$80 billion in 1984, equalling the volume of bank credits for the first time ever, Mr. Hans-Joerg Rudloff said.

But volume this year "will be about the same if not smaller," as many governments cut borrowing needs and declining interest rates push investors towards real estate or equities, he predicted.

Mr. Rudloff was speaking at a news conference at which parent company Financiere Credit Suisse-First Boston announced a 34 per cent increase in 1985 net profits to 187.6 million Swiss francs (\$96.2 million), its sixth record year in a row.

CSFB itself led \$19.21 billion worth of Eurobonds last year, up from \$13.2 billion in 1984 and more than double that of nearest rival Merrill Lynch Capital Markets.

The last few years have seen a move by many international borrowers away from commercial bank credits to the bond market as banks, reeling under the effects of the 1982 debt crisis, have preferred to share out risks by managing bond issues rather than lend cash directly themselves.

Sweden closes down last commercial shipyard

STOCKHOLM (R) — The government Friday announced the closure of Sweden's last remaining commercial shipyard, Kockums of Malmö, after spending nearly \$5 billion in 10 years trying to keep the depressed industry afloat.

Around 2,300 workers will lose their jobs in the southern port, which already has the country's highest unemployment.

Industry Minister Thage Peterson said the government had decided not to pump any more money into the yard, which has not won a single new order for two years.

"I will give you a figure which may shock you," Mr. Peterson told reporters.

"Shipbuilding has cost Swedish taxpayers 35 billion crowns (\$4.7 billion) in the last 10 years. We have decided to provide no further direct support to a business which has no orders and no potential customers."

Kockums was the last Swedish yard to hold out against tough competition from heavily subsidised shipbuilders in other countries.

Swedish shipbuilding has been drastically cut back since the mid-1970s and the last yard for tankers and bulk carriers at Uddevalla is due to close this year.

Mr. Peterson conceded that the Kockums yard was highly efficient but said it could not compete with heavily subsidised rivals.

Several hundred workers will be kept on in the company's profitable submarine and workshop divisions. Sweden still has several naval dockyards.

Sweetening the pill

The government sweetened the pill by announcing that Swedish carmaker Saab-Scania would open a new car factory on the Kockums site, creating around 2,100 new jobs by 1994.

The government is also setting up a regional investment fund and creating new jobs in railways and telecommunications in Malmö, Sweden's third largest city.

"We are not sacrificing the Kockums workers," Mr. Peterson said. "You will find no other example in Sweden, or elsewhere, where on the same day as you announce a closure you also provide an alternative industry."

Mr. Peterson said the government would also press ahead with negotiations with Denmark over the building of a road bridge between Malmö and the Danish capital Copenhagen.

This is the second time that the closure of a shipyard has been accompanied by the promise of a new car plant. Volvo is to build a factory at Uddevalla on the west coast after the closure of the shipyard there.

Japanese rush to buy gold as yen appreciates

TOKYO (R) — Japanese are rushing to buy gold, now much cheaper following the dollar's decline against the yen.

The price of gold, which is dollar-denominated on the international market, fell in yen terms to a 6-1/2 year low Friday and goldsmiths in central Tokyo were doing a roaring business.

"We had some 300 clients today at the shop. That is about five to eight times more than usual," said a spokesman for the Tokuriki Honten gold company.

Gold retailed Friday at 2,005 yen per gramme, 75 less than Thursday as the dollar touched a seven-year low of 180 yen.

Japan's gold imports surged to a record 199 tonnes last year, the finance ministry announced Friday. The previous record was 195 tonnes in 1984.

As the dollar dived, Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita said he did not think the fall was out of control.

He told parliament that Japan and other countries had agreed to avert a total dollar collapse. "There is no possibility in sight of that," he said in reply to questions from a budget committee.

Dealers predicted it was just a matter of time before the dollar dipped below 180 yen and speculators appeared to be banking on a fall below the all-time low of 175.50 yen.

Mr. Sumita repeated his view that an upward trend for the yen was desirable but that progress should be orderly.

He said he had no present intention of further cutting the bank's official discount rate which sets the general pattern for domestic lending. Only two weeks ago the rate was cut to 4.5 per cent from five per cent.

The governor declined to answer questions about possible buying intervention by the bank to prop up the dollar.

In the past week the yen has dropped nearly 10 yen as investors worldwide took an increasingly gloomy view of the U.S. economy.

Before last September's drive by Japan and four other nations to bring down the dollar it had stood at more than 242 yen.

Curbs on auto exports to be maintained

Meanwhile, Japan's major car-makers Thursday grudgingly accepted a government decision to extend limits on exports to the United States as politically necessary.

Minister of international trade and industry, Mr. Michio Watanabe, told a news conference Thursday that Japan would limit exports to the U.S. market to 2.3 million units in the year starting April 1, the same level as the current fiscal year.

Mr. Watanabe also said the quotas for each maker would remain unchanged, despite pressure from smaller manufacturers for changes.

Energy experts predict oil price fall to \$12 a barrel

NEW YORK (R) — Crude oil prices, which have fallen almost 50 per cent in the past three months, could dip to \$12 a barrel or lower, according to experts at a symposium here.

"I think prices will fall to \$12 to \$14 barrel before stabilising," said Mr. Thomas McHale, an economist with the securities firm Drexel, Burnham Lambert. "But there is no safety net to stop prices from falling further."

One analyst told the audience, made up of oil industry officials and investors, that oil prices could tumble to \$3 a barrel before stabilising.

The symposium was sponsored by the New York Mercantile Exchange, the market for trading energy futures.

The British North Sea Brent crude oil was trading at \$16.50 a barrel Thursday while the key U.S. crude, West Texas Intermediate, was at \$15.65. Prices for both have fallen almost 50 per cent since November.

Analysts said the dramatic fall in oil prices over the last few months had been orchestrated by Saudi Arabia, the key Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) producer, which has more than doubled its output.

Mr. Charles Maxwell, an analyst with the brokerage house C.J. Lawrence, said he thought Saudi Arabia had raised its output in an effort to enforce production discipline within OPEC.

Mr. Maxwell said that if cutting prices to restore discipline within OPEC failed at the \$12 level, then prices would break below that, to \$8 a barrel.

Saudi Arabia has said it was seeking an agreement on production levels between OPEC and non-OPEC producers.

The World Bank estimated a 25 per cent cut in prices could raise oil demand by five per cent over two years, and by up to 10 per cent after five years.

The main beneficiaries of this would be the Gulf producers, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, with their large reserves of low-cost oil.

Analysts also said an effort to maintain rapidly dwindling cash reserves were behind the more aggressive tone taken by Saudi Arabia in pricing and producing its oil.

Mr. McHale estimated Saudi cash reserves have fallen to \$50 billion from \$160 billion in the last three and a half years.

Analysts said Saudi foreign reserves may not last much beyond the end of the decade at their current rate of depletion.

They said rebuilding the reserves would require maintaining or raising Saudi oil production — meaning prices in the range of \$12 to \$14 a barrel.

Even at these levels, Saudi Arabia could produce profitably because its production costs are about \$5 a barrel.

Saudis offer more 'netback' crude to Turkey

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammed Ali Abul Khail was quoted Thursday as saying his country was ready to sell more oil to Turkey on a "netback" basis, pricing it in line with world prices of oil products.

He also said before leaving Ankara after a two-day visit to Turkey that the recent fall in world prices was temporary and prices would steady in few months, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency reported.

"As an oil producing country we do not want the prices to fall," he said. But he added: "nobody can ask us to produce less than our quota."

Turkey bought 630,000 tonnes of Saudi oil in the first nine months of last year and agreed to buy one million tonnes on a netback basis in 1986.

Turkey last year imported some 16 million tonnes of crude, mainly from Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, and a Turkish minister said last month Ankara had begun renegotiating prices in view of the

declining world market.

Britain acknowledges oil price fall hits budget handout

In London, British ministers acknowledged Thursday that prospects of a government budget next month to restore the government's political fortunes have been drastically hit by the fall in oil prices.

With the value of North Sea oil hovering around \$16 a barrel, down from more than \$20 at the start of the year, Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson told parliament:

"My scope for manoeuvre has been very greatly affected by the sharp fall in North Sea oil."

Mr. Lawson last March promised up to £3.5 billion (\$5 billion) in tax cuts this year.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, speaking in the House of Commons after a cabinet meeting Thursday on Britain's economic prospects, also acknowledged that "in view of falls in oil prices that have already taken place, we must above all have a prudent and cautious budget."

Norway's production to rise, newspaper says

In Oslo, Norway's oil production is set to rise by at least 10 per cent this year despite calls from OPEC for restraint or cuts in output to stabilise tumbling prices, the Oslo daily Aftenposten said Thursday.

The pro-government daily, which is often used to leak official but sensitive information, said Norway would produce some 890,000 barrels of crude per day (b/d) this year, well above the 1985 figure of 780,000 b/d.

An oil and energy ministry spokesman declined to comment on the report, but oil companies contacted by Reuters said the figures were accurate, and possibly underestimated the increase in production.

Aftenposten said production was likely to increase further by the end of the decade to about 1.2 million b/d as new North Sea fields come on stream.

Bonn approves biggest-ever corporate link-up in Germany

WEST BERLIN (R) — Prestige car and truck maker Daimler-Benz Thursday won approval from West Germany's anti-trust authority to take over electrical group AEG in the country's biggest-ever corporate link-up.

Daimler's purchase of a 56 per cent holding in AEG will make it West Germany's largest industrial conglomerate, with annual turnover of more than 60 billion marks (\$25.5 billion) and a worldwide workforce of almost 300,000.

The Federal Cartel Office gave the green light to Daimler, maker of Mercedes-Benz cars and trucks, after it and AEG agreed to sell holdings in a number of com-

panies that linked them with competitors.

But the decision could provoke renewed unease in some quarters of business and politics over such concentrations of corporate power.

Partly as a result of Daimler's plan, the government has already ordered a review of merger controls.

The takeover, costing just under 1.2 billion marks (\$765 million), is Daimler's biggest move yet in a strategy of diversification into high-technology it began last year with the purchase of engine maker MTU and aerospace and research group Dornier.

Behind the flurry of ac-

quisitions, Daimler has said, lies its aim of extending a technological lead over international rivals at a time when the car is becoming an increasingly high-technology product.

The strategy mirrors that of major U.S. car companies which have already purchased high-tech firms.

With AEG, which is on the way back to financial health after emerging from insolvency proceedings in 1984, the cash-rich vehicles group is buying into high-quality telecommunications engineering, electronics, production automation and aerospace technology.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 15, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day when you are impelled to get into the practical considerations that face you and require your immediate attention. Don't be surprised if you're met with considerable delays.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study your bills and plan to pay them even if only in part, but don't get confused, and don't listen to the advice of one who is no help.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Place yourself in the hands of experts and improve your appearance properly. Forget amusements for now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It may take a little longer than you anticipated to get out of some touchy situation, but persevere and it is soon behind you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't be so dependent upon friends to gain some aim that is important to you. Be more self-reliant.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You may not be sure of how to handle credit and other outside matters, so work carefully and wisely.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You think you have fine ideas but friends do not agree with you, so discern whether it is due to jealousy or not.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may find it difficult to work out a business matter with one of much experience, but not impossible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A partner is just as stubborn as you are today, so don't endeavor to come to any agreement until the mood changes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may find it annoying that you cannot get your tasks handled quickly today, but allow time for delays here and there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may find it more expensive than you had anticipated to have pleasure, be it during the day or the evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Although the situation at home may be somewhat hectic, keep poised and all is soon rectified.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be very careful in motion wherever you may be, and avoid accidents. Also, be on the lookout for those who are reckless.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be highly magnetic so be sure to send to fine schools and teach the importance of getting a good education.

The life can become successful since there is much ability at business professions and much money can be honestly earned. Spiritual training is important.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS
1 Enne
10 Apartment in Soho
14 Worn out
15 Term of respect
16 Fall
17 Fictional
18 Harry James
20 Transmitted
22 See him of the Mediterranean
23 Petty sum
24 Deceased
25 Device used by musicians
30 Laborer of iron
34 Rebellious the actor
35 Straight
37 Easy job
38 Mouths
39 Allow
40 Actor Vernon
42 Summer drink
43 Cuts, dynasty
44 Deceased
47 Female ruff
48 Shorty
49 Pippa, fiction
51 Town society
54 Unit of land
56 Ten, players
58 Fibert
60 Hungary born
63 Isaac Stern
64 Piece of
65 ironic
67 Milling
68 R. L. Stine
69 Page
70 Legal paper
71 Soap

DOWN
1 Letters from
2 Assistant
3 Instrument
4 Kind of soup

5 Tokyo formerly
6 Concerning
7 Spruce, e.g.
8 Indonesian islands
9 Send money
10 Stripe blazer
11 Fr. author
12 Pier
13 Cruising
14 Sewing
15 He wrote
16 "The Raven"
17 Challenged
18 Factory
19 Gun
20 Jots
21 Lanes
22 Confine
23 What Gene
24 Knaps played
25 Consumed
26 Ralph
27 Shades
28 Sp
29 Ed of TV
30 Greedy
31 Knotty
32 - grand
33 Miss Pegg's
34 "Joe"
35 Ed of TV
36 Greedy
37 Faction
38 Shamewares
39 Indore
40 Thought: Prof.
41 Swiss canton
42 Bay in Japan
43 Sell

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ASHIE MASHIS SWAR
LOAN ABOUT SPAL
SARDI GOILE ASTIL
ORIENTALITAIL MON
BLUE CHROMING
OBLICTIONE CRIAN
WID HORROR LINGOTT
HELIC SARDAT ETINA
NOMAD TETRIA OCT
DIEPIC SEALANES
CINEMAS PIS
DUAL TROHIE POTATD
DUAL TROHIE POTATD
EDIE TAPITIA TIME
REARD SHINS FIATIS

Peanuts

THESE CATALOGS WITH THEIR MODELS ARE DEPRESSING! EVERYONE IS HANDSOME AND BEAUTIFUL!

LOOK AT THEM IN THEIR NEW SPRING CLOTHES... IT SETS AN IMPOSSIBLE STANDARD FOR US KIDS...

NONE OF US CAN EVER GROW UP TO LOOK THAT GOOD

I WILL!

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"When did we switch from wining and dining to whining and dining?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CELER

DEEXU

ARMKUP

PRAULB

A BIRD HE SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF BEFORE HE WAS KNOCKED OUT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: C C C

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FRUIT LADLE FACADE JUMPER

Answer: The only time some drivers obey the speed limit is when they're in a traffic jam.

Andy Capp

WWW, STRANGER, YOU NEVER KNOW, HE MIGHT STAND ME A DRINK

ANY CHANCE OF ONE, MATE? I'M A BIT DOWN ON MY LUCK

FLIPPIN' CHEEK! IF HE COMES ANY MORE OF THAT HE'LL BE DOWN ON HIS BACK

Angola excludes Mandela from possible PoW swap

LONDON (R) — A top Angolan official said Friday his country would consider a prisoner swap with South Africa but he discounted reports that the deal could include jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

Elisio Da Figueiredo, Angolan ambassador to the United Nations and Britain, told a news conference that Luanda was ready to free a South African soldier, Capt. Wynand Du Toit, in an exchange. "Definitely my government would consider the possibility of exchange of South African prisoners with certain Angolans and Cubans that are in South African prisons," Mr. Figueiredo said.

However, in answer to a question he added: "In no way Du Toit is to be part of a deal with Nelson Mandela."

South African President P.W. Botha suggested Mr. Mandela could be freed in exchange for Du Toit, the sole survivor of a South African commando team captured in an abortive attack on an Angolan oil installation last May, and two Soviet dissidents.

Mr. Figueiredo said Angola would consider exchanging Du Toit for Angolans and Cubans captured by South Africa during incursions into his country. Pretoria, which describes these raids as pre-emptive strikes against guerrillas fighting for independence in South African-controlled Namibia, had not yet made a formal approach, he said.

Mr. Figueiredo referred to reports that South Africa had agreed a date for implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 435, which calls for independence in Namibia.

A start on implementing the

resolution and the arrival of U.N. troops in Namibia would create a climate beneficial to the whole of southern Africa, he said.

Namibia, a former German protectorate controlled by Pretoria in defiance of U.N. resolutions, was discussed in Geneva this week at talks between South African Foreign Minister P. Botha and U.S. Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr. Figueiredo.

Mr. Figueiredo branded as outright interference in Angolan affairs a suggestion by Mr. Crocker that there would have to be a reconciliation between Angola's rulers and the South African-backed UNITA guerrillas.

He ruled out reconciliation with Jonas Savimbi and other leaders of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), which has waged a 10-year bush war against the Luanda government.

The ambassador condemned the U.S. administration for receiving Mr. Savimbi on an official visit but he said Luanda would not retaliate by refusing to talk to Washington.

He restated Luanda's position that Cubans would stay in Angola for as long as they were needed to defend his country. He said that South African forces remained in southern Angola.

Protests in S. Africa

Meanwhile in South Africa, police Friday fired teargas to disperse

a crowd of black women marching on the police station in Atteridgeville racially-segregated township near Pretoria, eyewitnesses said.

The women were protesting over the deaths of two local teenagers, allegedly shot by police. Most residents boycotted work or school as part of the protest.

Police headquarters in Pretoria said anti-protest squads fired a number of rounds of teargas to disperse an illegal gathering and blacks stoning patrols.

Atteridgeville was like a ghost town for much of the morning, with police and army armoured personnel carriers the only vehicles moving around its dusty streets, eyewitnesses said.

An estimated two thousand teenagers Thursday held a commemorative meeting in the township for a local schoolgirl who two years ago became the first victim of unrest that has now claimed over 1,100 lives.

A U.S. government human rights report said Thursday that South African police used excessive force in dealing with black unrest and that press freedom in the country was deteriorating.

The report, describing human rights in 166 countries, said a serious economic downturn was a major factor in contributing to South African unrest but it forecast little possibility of sufficient growth to reduce high black unemployment.

"Against the backdrop of slow, incremental change and a deep economic recession, political discontent and ferment increased dramatically in the nation's black and coloured townships in 1984-85," the report said.

S. Korean dissidents put under house arrest

SEOUL (R) — Leading South Korean dissidents Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam were under house arrest Friday and police detained 16 of their supporters as a confrontation between government and opposition worsened.

Justice Minister Kim Seung-Ky repeated government warnings that it would deal harshly with supporters of a campaign for election reform and threatened to send Kim Dae-Jung back to jail if he continued anti-government activities.

Kim, 60-year-old former presidential candidate, is banned from politics because of a suspended 20-year jail sentence for sedition.

The Justice Minister said in a statement: "It is possible to withdraw the suspension if conditions warrant that."

Kim Dae-Jung watched from a window of his home as supporters battled with police to reach him. They could not break through a cordon of more than 1,000 police surrounding the house and 16 were arrested.

Some supporters said police punched and kicked them.

Kim Young-Sam was having lunch with other opposition figures in a Seoul restaurant when police seized him, took him home and told him he was under house arrest. Scores of police surrounded his house.

Squads of detectives Thursday night raided the offices of the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) and the dissident Council for Promotion of Democracy (CPD).

Police seized lists of signatures, including those of the two Kims, who signed a petition on Wednesday calling for constitutional changes to provide for direct presidential elections.

President Chun Doo Hwan was elected by an electoral college of about 5,000 people and has banned debate on a change in the system until he stands down when his term ends in 1988 — year of the Seoul Olympics.

State prosecutors have warned that those taking part in the signature campaign could face jail terms of up to seven years.

Justice Minister Kim said the campaign to collect 10 million signatures was a "camouflaged act of violence" discarding constitutionalism and parliamentary democracy.

The prestigious daily Dong-A Ilbo Friday countered the justice minister's statement by questioning the constitutionalism which it said allowed police to beat at least seven reporters covering the raids Thursday night.

17 Mexican police killed in ambush

OAXACA, Mexico (AP) — Seventeen police officers were killed in an ambush by alleged drug traffickers in a remote marijuana-growing area of southern Mexico, a Federal Judicial Police officer said.

The shootout, four kilometres outside the town of San Baltazar Chichicapán Ocotlán, took place Wednesday morning, said the officer, who refused to give his name.

Two of the assailants also were killed, and an 18th police officer

was missing, he said. The town is in a mountainous area about 50 kilometres south of Oaxaca, the capital of Oaxaca state.

According to the Oaxaca newspaper El Imparcial, the ambush occurred when more than 150 police officers were set upon by hundreds of alleged drug traffickers armed with submachine guns and other high-powered weapons.

The police officer in Oaxaca said six of the dead were with the

Federal Judicial Police and that the others were local officers. El Imparcial said one of those killed was the commander of the Judicial Police's Robbery Unit.

No arrests have been made, the officer said. Police remained in the area and reportedly blocked off two roads leading to the town.

The state attorney general's office in Oaxaca declined to give any details of the incident and said a statement would be released later.

3 killed as Sikh showdown nears

NEW DELHI (R) — Three people were killed in Punjab as Sikh moderates prepared for a trial of strength with militants who have seized control of Sikhdom's holiest shrine in their battle for an independent state.

The attacks came Thursday amid signs that the state government might take a tough line against the militants, who took over the Golden Temple in Amritsar last month.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said suspected extremists made four attacks near Amritsar, shooting dead two men, wounding a man and a woman, and knifing to death a civil servant in his bed.

Extremists also defaced a statue of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of Indian independence, and raised the flag of "Khalistan," the separate Sikh state they are demanding, PTI said.

Punjab's ruling Akali Dal Party and moderate religious leaders were meanwhile trying to whip up massive Sikh support for a showdown with the militants on Sunday.

They hope to draw 300,000 people to a Sarbat Khalsa, a rarely-held assembly which can issue edicts for all Sikhs to follow, to challenge the takeover of the temple.

Militants marched into the shrine complex brandishing swords on Jan. 26 and voted to oust its moderate leadership.

The moderates this week switched the Sarbat Khalsa venue from the Golden Temple to Anandpur Sahib near the state capital of Chandigarh, in what Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Bar-

nala said was a bid to avoid a bloody clash with the militants.

But many politicians and commentators say Mr. Barnala and religious leaders have merely delayed a clash and that the hardliners will eventually have to be ousted by force.

In what appeared to be the start of a new hard approach, Mr. Barnala denounced the militants as "a small group of trigger-happy people."

"Can we allow Punjab to be held to ransom by the activities of a handful of criminals whose only aim is to plunge Punjab into another bout of blood-letting at the behest of anti-Punjab forces?" he asked in a toughly-worded newspaper advertisement.

Militants simultaneously accused Mr. Barnala of planning to take the temple by force. India's biggest selling newspaper said the Punjab and central governments believed this was inevitable.

"Once the Akali leadership has acquiesced to the Sikh masses about the activities of these (extremist) elements, the government will not hesitate to resort to the ultimate course," the independent Indian Express said.

Clashes in New Delhi

Curfew was clamped on part of the Indian capital Friday after at least 50 people were injured in fighting between Hindus and Muslims.

Police in riot gear used tear gas to disperse about 3,000 people hurling stones and smashing car and shop windows in the narrow and congested streets around Delhi's largest mosque.

About 100 people were ar-

rested, the police said.

Eyewitnesses said the fighting broke out when about 3,000 Muslims emerged from Friday prayers at the Jama Masjid Mosque protesting about a court decision to allow Hindus to reopen a temple at a controversial site near the northern city of Lucknow.

"I saw a large group carrying iron rods, sticks and stones and attacking cars, buses and shops," said Harmander Singh, who was barricaded inside his hotel in a main thoroughfare leading to the old area of Delhi.

Dozens of cars were abandoned in the road with their windows smashed after their drivers fled in panic.

Most shops in the area, which has a mixed Hindu-Muslim population living at close quarters, closed as soon as the trouble began.

The Muslim protests were over a decision in Lucknow on Feb. 1 giving Hindus the right to worship again in a temple in Ayodhya town, believed by Hindus to be the birthplace of Rama, one of their most important Gods.

The temple closed 37 years ago after Muslims filed a suit trying to forbid entry of Hindus into the temple, which they had used as a mosque for centuries during Moghul rule.

Eyewitnesses said many of the attacks were made by Muslim protesters on Hindu shops which ignored a strike call Friday against the court ruling.

Police said curfew would remain in force in the area, popular with tourists visiting the mosque and the nearby Moghul Red Fort, at least until Friday evening.

Portuguese candidates end campaigns

OPORTO, Portugal (R) — The two candidates to become Portugal's next president ended their election campaigns with huge demonstrations of support in Oporto and Lisbon that heralded a close final vote on Sunday.

In a rain-soaked climax to campaigning, supporters of right-winger Diogo Freitas do Amaral packed a square in Oporto Thursday night, while thousands of backers of his left-wing rival

Mario Soares gathered in Lisbon.

Sunday's poll, which will end the most closely fought presidential election in Portuguese history, follows an inconclusive first round last Jan. 26 in which two other left-wing candidates were eliminated.

Mr. Soares, a 61-year-old three-times Socialist prime minister and his right-wing opponent have concentrated their campaign

in Lisbon and the northern city of Oporto which together account for more than one third of the electorate.

Freitas do Amaral, 44, a former deputy prime minister told supporters in Oporto that his election would guarantee political stability and renew national confidence to face the challenge of economic modernisation presented by Portugal's membership of the European Community.

More poisoned Tylenol found in U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — Americans were warned Friday not to take Tylenol capsules after police found a second bottle of the pain reliever laced with enough cyanide to kill five people.

A woman died at the weekend after swallowing capsules from another contaminated bottle of the country's most popular over-the-counter headache drug.

"All consumers should keep this warning in mind not to take any Tylenol capsules until we know what is going on," Frank Young, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said Thursday night.

New York, Illinois and California either banned the sale of the capsules or warned consumers not to use them. Johnson and Johnson, Tylenol's maker, issued a similar warning.

The actions came after FDA chemists found five capsules containing 60 per cent cyanide in a bottle at a store in New York's suburban Westchester County.

The store is in the same suburb as a supermarket where a Tylenol bottle also containing five poisoned capsules was purchased. Diane Elstroth, a 23-year-old stenographer, died on Saturday after taking two of the capsules.

The discoveries revived the fears that followed the cyanide deaths of seven people who purchased Tylenol capsules from a Chicago supermarket in 1982. Those murders have not been solved.

Officials said each of the poisoned capsules discovered Thursday was strong enough to kill a person.

Tylenol, an Aspirin substitute, is the largest-selling non-prescription pain reliever in the United States. It comes in tablet and liquid form also, but only the capsules are suspected of being poisoned.

When the drug was returned to the market after the Chicago deaths, it was in bottles with three tamper-resistant seals.

Westchester County executive Andrew O'Rourke said the seals on the two bottles found to contain cyanide appear not to have been broken.

Thus, he said, whoever tampered with them must have had some "professional means" of sealing them.

O'Rourke told a news conference that the bottle discovered Tuesday contained 60 per cent cyanide.

O'Rourke said the second bottle containing cyanide came from a Woolworth's department store, several blocks away from the A & P supermarket where the capsules that killed Elstroth were purchased.

Because the bottles were found in the same area, investigators theorised that they were taken from the stores, laced with cyanide and then put back on the shelves, sources familiar with the investigation said.

It is unlikely they were tampered with at the factory, they said.

Love stops the train

SYDNEY (R) — The 6.08 commuter train from Sydney was held up for 20 minutes after a guard found a naked couple making love in his compartment. Other passengers said the guard pulled the emergency cord and told the couple they had three minutes to get dressed and get off at the next station. The man pulled on his clothes then punched the guard three times, the passengers said. The man was later arrested by police who said he would be charged with a number of offences. The woman left the train without further incident.

'Even turtles' vote for Marcos

MANILA (R) — Even turtles seem to have voted in last week's Philippine presidential election, a spokesman for opposition candidate Corason Aquino said Friday. He said the turtle islands in the southern Philippines had only 588 registered voters yet 1,125 were listed as having voted for President Ferdinand Marcos. "The rest must have been turtles," he added.

Doe orders ministers to farm

ABIDJAN (R) — President Samuel Doe has ordered all cabinet ministers to spend two weeks farming as part of Liberia's "green revolution," Monrovia Radio said Friday. The radio, monitored in Abidjan, quoted a presidential statement saying that "any minister who fails to make a farm in the next six months will be dropped from the cabinet." The radio also quoted Doe as appealing to all Liberians to step up farming to boost output of cash crops, such as cocoa and coffee, and staple foods such as rice.

Man compensated for not being able to sit on cold lavatory seat

SYDNEY (R) — A government tribunal has awarded compensation to a man who had his pay docked because he can't sit on cold lavatory seats. The Aviation Department transferred Keith Dare, 41, to an indoor job three years ago because of his condition, but cut his pay. Dare challenged the department and won the legal battle when the tribunal ordered the department to restore his earnings retrospective to his transfer in 1982. The tribunal explained that cold seats gave Mr. Dare "weals which swell and itch." The condition was aggravated because of his outdoor work, the tribunal was told. Dare has to heat his home throughout the year and could not swim in cold water or walk in a slight drizzle. Doctors said Dare's allergy is known as cold urticaria.

Police reportedly identify pretty women by using computer

WELLINGTON (R) — Police Minister Ann Hercus Friday ordered an investigation into allegations that New Zealand policemen have been using the country's central records computer to identify pretty women they see driving past their squad cars. Hercus told reporters she had ordered an internal inquiry and had also asked the country's former spy chief, Paul Molloy, now a government-appointed computer information "watchdog," to look into the matter. The probe follows allegations by a retired senior police sergeant of regular police abuse of the central computer. These ranged from supplying information to friends, wanting to purchase a car to discovering personal details of women drivers who took their fancy.

Delhi truck drivers 'are blind'

NEW DELHI (R) — Traffic police have just confirmed what Delhi's intimidated motorists and pedestrians have known all along — truck drivers are blind. Eye tests on lorry drivers in the capital this week showed that only one in five had normal vision. Deputy Commissioner of Traffic Police Neeraj Kumar said. Out of 100 drivers tested 39 needed glasses, 20 were suffering from myopia, 15 from eye infections and three had cataracts. "Buses and trucks account for 68 per cent of fatal accidents in India, which has the world's highest traffic accident rate, according to the National Road Transport Council.

CIA denies knowledge of torture in Honduras

WASHINGTON (R) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has flatly denied that U.S. agents knew of cases of murder and torture carried out by CIA-trained Honduran commando squads but did nothing about it.

A CIA spokesman told Reuters the reports stemmed from "disinformation" spread by Cuban intelligence agents.

"It's part of a continuing effort by Cuban intelligence services to peddle these and similar charges," he said.

The reports from Honduras quoted top Honduran and U.S. officials as saying U.S. intelligence agents knew Honduran commando squads trained by the CIA were killing and torturing people suspected of helping Salvadoran rebels obtain arms, but did nothing about it.

The officials said the Honduran troops were participating in a CIA-funded programme to halt the arms flow to the Salvadoran rebels.

In addition to those who were murdered and tortured, more than a hundred others "disappeared," the officials said.

Senior Honduran military officers and U.S. intelligence officials who formerly served in Honduras said that U.S. intelligence operatives knew of the murders and torturing but never exerted pressure to end the abuses, considering them an internal matter.

The CIA spokesman said Thursday accusations of CIA complicity in Salvadoran death squads had surfaced in 1984 and also were the result of Cuban intelligence propaganda operations.

He read a CIA statement which

had been issued in 1984: "The CIA does not condone, participate in or instigate by any other means murder or the use of torture."

Asked how U.S. congressional and military sources would have been passing on Cuban "disinformation," the spokesman declined to comment further.

One U.S. military intelligence officer formerly involved in the programme said one of the major problems in providing evidence of gun-running to Salvadoran rebels was that Honduran operatives sometimes killed their victims or they simply "disappeared."

He said that in the province of Choluteca, strategically located between Nicaragua and El Salvador, Nicaraguans, Salvadoreans and Hondurans were detained on suspicion of running arms and then were "gone, disappeared."

"We were not thrilled," he said. "The subversives kept ending up dead. They were never captured alive."

He said U.S. intelligence operatives "may have been somewhat neglectful" by not asking the Hondurans about such incidents but said Congress required them to maintain distance from the programme and they were afraid of being accused of meddling in Honduran affairs.

"Understand our position," he said. "If we come up with something on a Honduran officer and we're wrong, it creates a lot of tensions counterproductive to our purpose."

"And if we're right, we have to ask ourselves if this is not an internal matter for the Hondurans," he said.

Pretoria warns Botswana over border insurgency

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa Friday issued a veiled warning to neighbouring Botswana to curb guerrillas which Pretoria says are operating from Botswana, or face retaliatory raids.

Radio South Africa, in a commentary programme which reflects official thinking, referred to a landmine explosion in the northern Transvaal province this week and a subsequent firefight in which a South African soldier and a guerrilla of the African National Congress (ANC) were killed.

"After repeated incidents of this nature the Botswana government must be aware that there is by now a strong swell of scepticism in South Africa about its protestations of innocence," the radio said.

Greek captain sentenced to 12 years in marine fraud case

PIRAEUS, Greece (AP) — A Greek captain was sentenced to 12 years in prison for his role in the deliberate sinking of a Liberian-registered supertanker, one of the biggest marine fraud cases on record.

A five-member court Thursday sentenced the captain, Dimitris Georgoulis, after convicting him of scuttling the Salem off the coast of Senegal in January 1980.

He also was found guilty of being an accomplice in the illegal sale of the tanker's 180,000-ton cargo of crude oil to South Africa.

"He was a faithful tool," Prosecutor George Arvanitis told the court. "Without him the sale of the cargo and the scuttling of the tanker could not have happened."

Lawyers for the defendant said

they would appeal the decision.

Georgoulis, 50, was in hiding in Athens for five years after the Salem incident. He was arrested last October six months after a Pireaus appeal court jailed five Greeks on similar charges of embezzlement and scuttling the tanker.

The vessel was insured for \$24 million and its cargo for \$56 million when it went down.

In testimony Thursday, Georgoulis admitted to scuttling the Salem but said he was not involved in planning the cargo fraud. The crime, owned by the Dutch Shell Oil Company, was sold to South Africa's state oil company.

"When we left Greece we had no idea what we were involved in," Georgoulis said.

Book says French submarine rescued Rainbow saboteurs

WELLINGTON (R) — Three French Secret Service frogmen made a rendezvous with the French nuclear submarine Rubis before scuttling their charter yacht in mid-Pacific, according to a new book on the Rainbow Warrior affair.

The book, to be published later this month, contradicts official Paris denials of navy involvement in the sabotage operation mounted by the French Secret Service, the DGSE.

Excerpts from Eyes of Fire: The Last Voyage of the Rainbow Warrior, released Friday by its New Zealand publishers, say Rubis met the French yacht Ouvea somewhere in the Coral Sea, scuttled it, and took its three French crewmen to Tahiti.

Author David Robie said the submarine left New Caledonia on July 5 — five days before the Greenpeace flagship was bombed and sunk in Auckland Harbour — but did not arrive at Tahiti until July 22 though it could have made the journey in a week.

The Ouvea and its crew were

last seen publicly on July 16 when they left the tiny Australian-administered Norfolk Island after being questioned by New Zealand police.

The three crew, chief petty officer Roland Verge and petty officers Gerald Andries and Jean-Michel Barcelo presented themselves to Paris police in August but were released.

No explanation has been given how they returned to France, but naval involvement was denied at the time.

New Zealand police who had insufficient evidence to arrest the three on Norfolk Island later issued murder and sabotage warrants against them.

The police said they had forensic evidence showing explosives were smuggled into New Zealand on the Ouvea.

Police Spokesman Maurice Whitman told reporters Friday that police had found nothing to contradict that evidence.

He said detectives had thoroughly checked a claim by the French magazine Paris Match that

the explosives had been smuggled in on a French freighter, the Helene Delmas.

"Certainly their claims are not supported by the facts as we know them or by any evidence," he said.

New Zealand police have said they do not expect to be able to bring the Ouvea crew to trial.

Two other DGSE agents, Dominique Prieur and Alain Maffart, are serving 10-year jail terms for their part in the sabotage raid, ordered by Paris to stop Rainbow Warrior protests against France's South Pacific nuclear testing programme.

Whitman told reporters that police had checked the freighter Helene Delmas and interviewed crew members days, after the bombing.

"To us it is just another French ship that was in port around July 10," he said.

Meanwhile Prieur's husband said Wednesday that her career in the French Secret Service is finished.

Prieur's husband Joel told reporters she would no longer be "a

spy, a secret agent" after her release. "It is over, finished," he said.

Joel Prieur talked to reporters in Christchurch, where he had spent two weeks secretly visiting his wife at the country's only women's prison.

He said she was in good spirits and was studying an Extramural University English course. He said they did not discuss the sabotage operation.

"When I married Dominique she told me what her job was and she asked me not to ask questions about it. I respected that and I have not asked," he said.

He said that both of them accepted that arrest and imprisonment were among the risks of the job.

But Joel Prieur said the operation against the Greenpeace flagship to halt its protest against France's Pacific nuclear testing programme did not make his wife a terrorist.

"She was an officer acting under orders," he said. "She is not an international terrorist — they could have blown up the boat on

the sea and killed everybody. They didn't do that. That would have been international terrorism."

The London Sunday Times newspaper said last weekend that France initially planned to sink the Rainbow Warrior on the high seas but decided in favour of the dockside attack.

Portuguese-born photographer Fernando Pereira, a Dutch national, died when DGSE frogmen bombed the converted trawler shortly before midnight on July 10. Police said later he had drowned after returning to his cabin to rescue equipment.

Prieur and